

Israelis say DFLP base bombed

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli aircraft bombed a "Palestinian base" in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley Wednesday hitting what the army said was a launching point for attacks on Israeli troops in the south. It was the sixth time this year Israel has sent planes to attack commando targets. All but one of the air raids was in eastern Lebanon. The army said the planes scored direct hits on a one-storey building near Barr Elias, 12 kilometres from the Syrian frontier. A spokesman said the building was used as a headquarters by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). In an air raid eight days ago, the Israelis bombed suspected commando positions southeast of Beirut. The military command said earlier that Israel's casualty toll since the June, 1982, invasion had reached 650 dead. (See page 2).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جورديان تايمز يوميات سياسية مستقلة منشورة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Reagan wants Mideast treaty

BAHRAIN (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan was quoted Wednesday as revealing that his administration has been trying to arrange an Arab-Israeli treaty similar to the one that former President Jimmy Carter sponsored between Egypt and the Jewish state in 1979. The London-based Saudi Arabian magazine Al Majallah quoted Mr. Reagan as saying that the accord he has been seeking would be patterned after the Camp David framework. It said that, in his quest for a Mideast settlement, Mr. Reagan has been trying to push the belligerents closer to each other in direct negotiations in which Washington would play no direct role. Mr. Reagan, according to Al Majallah, emphasised anew the U.S. insistence on not talking with the PLO unless it recognised Israel. "The Palestinian problem is among the major problems that need to be settled by negotiations... so that peace may prevail in the Middle East," the magazine quoted Mr. Reagan as saying.

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Kidnapped Israeli soldier killed

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian commandos killed an Israeli corporal kidnapped 10 days ago and threw his body in a wood between Ramallah and Jerusalem, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported Wednesday. It quoted a commando spokesman as saying that the soldier, named as Levi Aili, was killed because Israeli authorities used "all kinds of torture and terror" against a group of Palestinians seized on March 13 in Cypriot territorial waters. The soldier was kidnapped on April 10 by a Palestinian group called "Force-17" operating in Israeli occupied territories, WAFA said.

7 Israelis wounded in attack

BEIRUT (R) — Two Israeli convoys were hit by roadside bombs in South Lebanon Wednesday and security sources there quoted eyewitnesses as saying one blast caused seven casualties. The sources said one convoy was hit twice. After the second explosion four Israelis were seen being carried on stretchers and three others were limping. A bomb against another convoy caused no casualties, the sources added.

Peres opposes probe into Lebanon invasion

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday he would not set up a commission of inquiry into the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. "In my opinion, we haven't much time, and we have more pressing concerns," he said at an assembly organised by Tel Aviv University students in his Labour Party. Critics of former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon have urged that a commission investigate allegations he misled the government to gain approval for the invasion in June 1982.

U.S., Israel to make new missiles

TEL AVIV (AP) — The United States and Israel will develop and produce new missiles, submarines and patrol boats in a joint programme to cut costs in updating their navies, U.S. Navy Secretary John F. Lehman announced Wednesday. Israeli officials estimated that the deals discussed during Mr. Lehman's two-day trip would involve more than \$1 billion over several years. Mr. Lehman also announced that the U.S. armed services were seeking a second squadron of Israeli-built Kfir jet fighters.

Discovery crew fail to activate satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The crew of the space shuttle Discovery, despite near-herculean efforts over three days, Wednesday failed to activate a dormant communications satellite. Using the shuttle's 16-metre robot arm, crew member Rhea Seddon twice hit an activation switch on the side of the slowly-spinning satellite but was unable to push it far enough so that it would bring the powerless craft to life.

INSIDE

- * Iraqi missile attack damages Cypriot tanker, page 2
- * Jordan celebrates Al Isra' Wal Miraj, page 3
- * Falashas miserable life in 'promised land', page 4
- * American real estate developer apologises for offensive advertising, page 5
- * New Zealand calls tour of South Africa 'eternal shame', page 6
- * Fortunes of dollar hinge on U.S. data to be released today, page 7
- * China cites Kampuchea as top priority subject in Sino-Soviet talks for better ties, page 8

Rifai commits his government to support citizens' freedom of opinion, expression, belief and work

Premier pledges efforts towards stimulating economy, relaxing martial law, restoring Arab solidarity and achieving peace

By Salamah B. Ne'matt and Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday pledged his government's support for the citizens' freedom of opinion, expression, belief and work and intensified efforts towards improving inter-Arab relations and restoring Arab solidarity, and outlined his cabinet's plan of action to revitalise the Jordanian economy and vowed to work with the international community, both East and West, for a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also announced the arrival of the first shipment of arms for a proposed "People's Army" and said his government will work towards improving the living standards of the "less fortunate" citizens in the society.

Delivering his government's policy statement to the Lower House of Parliament, Mr. Rifai said the government was "well aware of its burdens and responsibilities which it will carry in cooperation with the house."

"We give utmost concern to cooperation between the legislative and executive branches through dialogue and exchange of opinions within the framework of



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai delivers the new cabinet's policy statement to the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan).

the one Jordanian family," the prime minister said.

He said the government will step up its efforts to provide a better life for the Jordanian citizen by offering services and guarantees to secure his interests and safety.

"It is the citizen's right to live free and secure, away from fear, worry and tyranny. The citizen is free in his opinion, free in his belief, free in his expression and free in his work," Mr. Rifai said.

He said the citizen will be free as long as he is committed to the welfare of his country, the constitution and laws and his responsibility towards his fellow citizens and work.

"A free citizen is more capable of protecting his national and personal security than exceptional situations and martial laws imposed by the circumstances of our conflict with the enemy," Mr. Rifai continued.

Martial law

The prime minister said the government has decided to limit the application of martial law in a way so that it does not exceed the necessities required for maintaining the Kingdom's security.

"In this healthy atmosphere of guaranteeing public freedom and spreading the feeling of responsibility among citizens, it is the government's duty to provide the

opportunities for growth and development within the framework of respect to the country and its security," he said.

The government will work to protect Jordanian citizens and institutions inside and outside the Kingdom to enable them to pursue their interests and be ambassadors of their country, he said.

Mr. Rifai said the new government will continue to strengthen and develop Jordan's

Armed Forces and security organs in order to protect the citizen and the country's institutions from sabotage, terrorism and aggression.

Terrorism

Referring to terrorist attacks on Jordanians abroad, Mr. Rifai said that although the attacks were carried out by Arab elements, "it is

(Continued on page 3)

PLO to step up armed struggle

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials agreed to continue armed struggle against Israel at the end of a two-day policy meeting here, a PLO official said Wednesday.

The talks, chaired by Yasser Arafat, grouped the 11-man PLO Executive Committee and the Central Committee of Mr. Arafat's Fatah commando group, the largest PLO faction.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Abbas) as saying "one of the resolutions stressed the continuation of armed struggle against the Zionist occupation forces to restore the rights of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Abbas said the meeting also stressed "the PLO was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The Tunis-based Palestinian news agency WAFA Tuesday night quoted a PLO official as saying the meeting insisted on equal representation with Jordan in a proposed U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

WAFA quoted a member of the

(Continued on page 3)

Karami cabinet resigns after heavy clashes in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's year-old "national unity" government, aimed at forging unity between the country's factions, collapsed Wednesday after fierce street fighting in Beirut.

Beirut Radio said Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced the cabinet's resignation shortly after midnight of the mostly Shi'ite "Amal" and predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) staged a "victory parade" through west Beirut following 15 hours of street warfare.

The battles pitted Amal and the PSP against the mainly Sunni Murabitoun militiamen after Amal tried to open an office in a district controlled by Murabitoun. Mr. Karami formed his "national unity" cabinet a year ago in the hope of bringing Lebanon's various religious and political factions closer together to end a decade of civil war.

Mr. Karami, a Sunni Muslim, said in a recorded statement broadcast by Beirut radio stations that the street fighting in west Beirut was a "horrible nightmare."

A source close to President Amin Gemayel's office declined comment on whether Mr. Gemayel will accept Karami's resignation.

The "Voice of the Nation" radio reported Mr. Karami telephoned his resignation to Mr. Gemayel. The radio said Mr.

Karami agrees to stay on temporarily

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami agreed to head a caretaker administration after submitting his government's resignation, Beirut Radio said.

Mr. Karami resigned earlier Wednesday, but the radio said he had agreed to stay on temporarily after consulting with President Gemayel.

Gemayel immediately consulted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus.

The premier's action could plunge the country into another political crisis amid fighting in the south as Israeli troops prepared to pull out of the region they invaded in June 1982.

"No one can justify what is happening in our capital, Beirut," Mr. Karami declared solemnly in his broadcast.

"To apologise to you, brothers, for what has happened, I tender to you and to Beirut the resignation of the national unity cabinet."

Mr. Karami's decision came after Education Minister Selim Hoss, also a Sunni, announced he was resigning as a result of the street battles, in which at least 27 people were known to have died

and 80 were wounded. Some west Beirut residents said the fighting in their districts Tuesday and early Wednesday had been more frightening than during the 1982 Israeli thrust into the city.

Militias have controlled west Beirut since they took it over in fighting with the Lebanese army a year ago.

In the latest flare-up, the Amal men were backed by fighters of cabinet minister Walid Jumblatt's PSP militia while the Murabitoun had some Palestinians on their side, according to security sources.

It was not clear exactly which Palestinians were involved. Palestinian fighters withdrew from Beirut after the 1982 Israeli invasion but many Palestinians remained in refugee camps in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon.

The "national unity" cabinet had often been crippled by boycotts by its ministers, including Mr. Jumblatt, a sworn enemy of the Falangist Party founded by Mr. Gemayel's late father Pierre. Mr. Jumblatt had the portfolio of public works, transport and tourism.

Amal leader Nabih Berri was also on the cabinet, as minister of justice and minister of state for South Lebanon but he, too, was highly critical of what he called the slow progress of moves to give Muslims a greater say in Lebanon.

Benjedid urges more active U.S. role in Mideast

From Lamin K. Andoni in Washington

ALGERIAN President Chadli Benjedid has encouraged the U.S. to take a more active role in the search for a Middle East settlement, and expressed his country's readiness to consider any initiative for solving the Palestinian problem, a senior State Department official said Wednesday.

The official, who asked not to be named, said the Algerian president talked at length about his country's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict during a meeting he held with President Ronald Reagan Wednesday, and stressed that the future of the Palestinians constituted the key question in the Middle East.

President Benjedid arrived in Washington on Tuesday and was received by Mr. Reagan at the White House Wednesday. In a welcoming ceremony, the U.S. president hailed the improvement in U.S.-Algerian relations and said ties between the two countries had strengthened in recent years. He also announced that two new U.S.-Algerian accords, dealing with economic and cultural relations, would be signed while Mr. Benjedid was in the U.S.

The State Department official neither confirmed nor denied that the Algerian president handed Mr. Reagan a message from Jordan and the PLO, but he praised Algeria's "active" role in trying to bring about a Middle East settlement. A proof of this "active" role, the official said, is that Algeria was the first country that King Hussein visited after the Feb. 11 accord and the visit later there by a joint Jordan-PLO delegation.

The official said there is still a long way to go before achieving a Middle East settlement, but that the U.S. and Algeria shared the same goals in attempts to bring about peace in the area. "President Benjedid also stressed the need for all nations to live in peace" during his meeting with President Reagan.

Mr. Reagan said Mr. Benjedid's visit provided an opportunity to further strengthen relations. He thanked Mr. Benjedid and his government for their crucial role in securing the release of American hostages held in Iran.

Stock market trading hits two-year high

By John Rice
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The country's small stock market has staged its strongest rally in 2½ years, fuelled by optimism over a new government committed to helping private business, officials said Wednesday.

Financial Market General Manager Hashem Sabbagh said the price index of all shares rose by 7.8 per cent in the first 17 days of April, reaching 119.5, while the value of stocks traded reached JD 2.9 million — almost equal to the full-month figures for January, February and March.

He said the 540 sales contracts on Wednesday and Tuesday were the most in two years and he said the overall rally was the strongest since June 1982, just before the country entered a recession.

"The main factor if that the government... has a very well-declared policy of privatisation and private sector (support) in all aspects of economic life," Mr. Sabbagh said.

A series of unexpectedly high dividends announced at the start of the month and a growing realisation that many stocks are undervalued following a long slump

also has helped, he said. Chamber of Commerce President Hamdi Tab'a said the market also was reacting to the government's cancellation of plans to require 51 per cent Jordanian ownership of foreign banks. Many businessmen say that plan would have discouraged foreign investors and would have squeezed the local capital market.

King Hussein on April 4 named Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to head a 23-member cabinet which has pledged to encourage investment by revamping tax and investment laws, smoothing regulations and cooperating with the private sector.

"The psychology is high now and that's what is needed to activate the market..." Mr. Sabbagh said. He said share prices for the banking sector have climbed 11.8 per cent so far in April, insurance shares have risen by 6.1 per cent, services by 5.3 per cent and industrials by eight per cent.

About 120 companies are represented in the seven-year-old market, which recorded a trading volume of JD 59 million in 1984 after one of JD 140.6 million in 1983.

Murphy in Cairo after talks with Palestinians

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived here Wednesday on the third stop in a Middle East tour to explore prospects for reviving Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Mr. Murphy refused to make a statement upon his arrival at Cairo international airport from Israel. Egyptian officials said the U.S. envoy would confer with President Hosni Mubarak later in the day and meet Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on the remainder of his planned three-day stay.

Mr. Murphy flew to Cairo from Israel, where he met not only with Israeli government officials but also with a group of 30 Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories.

The U.S. envoy, who has also visited Jordan on his current tour, met the Palestinians at an informal gathering Tuesday after two days of meetings with Israeli leaders.

Among other things, Mr. Murphy is believed to be discussing a

proposal by Mr. Mubarak for a meeting between U.S. officials and a delegation of Palestinians and Jordanians as a first step towards Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The United States has ruled out participation by members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the delegation until the PLO clearly accepts Israel's right to exist.

The group of Palestinian leaders who met Mr. Murphy Tuesday, gave the U.S. envoy a petition saying they viewed the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The petition, copies of which were made available to reporters, also called for the establishment of a Palestinian state. It was signed by 22 Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement endorsed the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" and called for Palestinian self-determination.

(Continued on page 2)

Violent protests mark day of solidarity with detainees

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinians living in occupied Jerusalem Wednesday organised violent demonstrations against the Israeli occupation to mark Palestinian Prisoners Day, reports reaching here from the occupied West Bank said.

The reports said that residents of Sha'fat, located at the northern entrance to the Holy City, set tyres ablaze and blocked the main road to Jerusalem. They also threw stones at Israeli military vehicles and chanted slogans condemning the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and the occupation forces' arbitrary and oppressive measures against Palestinians.

Following the demonstrations the Israeli occupation forces arrested a large number of Arab inhabitants, the report said.

In 1977 the Palestinian National Council (PNC) declared

April 17 as a day in solidarity with Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli prisons.

The United Nations has described Zionism as a form of racism and Nazism and in 1975 passed a resolution that condemned Israel's aggressive policies against inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

International organisations, human rights groups and the International Red Cross conference held in Tehran, in 1972, have all condemned Israeli racial policies and the Tehran conference passed a resolution calling for treatment of Palestinian prisoners as prisoners of war (PoWs) in accordance to Geneva conventions.

Israel, in the meantime, has ordered all international resolutions and continued its aggression against the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

Mubarak, Peres plan to meet 'within weeks'

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres will meet "in a matter of weeks" for talks on bilateral relations, a senior Israeli official said Wednesday.

Avraham Tamir, director-general of Mr. Peres' office, disclosed the summit plan to reporters as Ezer Weizman, minister without portfolio in the Israeli cabinet, conferred with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid.

Mr. Tamir is accompanying Mr. Weizman, Mr. Peres' top adviser on Arab affairs, on a three-day Cairo visit, the latest sign of improved relations between Egypt and Israel after a chill caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

"The summit will be held," Mr. Tamir said. "It's not in a matter of months but in a matter of weeks."

Israeli embassy sources said Mr. Weizman made a similar remark at a briefing for Israeli reporters on Wednesday after he talked for two hours with Mr. Mubarak.

Israeli government officials speaking anonymously said the summit, the first between the two countries in four years, will be next month.

Those officials said agreement on the meeting was reached last week in a detailed letter from Mr. Mubarak to Mr. Peres.

The thaw in bilateral relations began shortly after Mr. Peres took office last September. He and Mr. Mubarak have exchanged several messages and envoys since.

Israeli media reports quoted Mr. Weizman as saying the summit would be held in Egypt but outside Cairo.

1 crew member injured in Exocet attack

Iraqi missile attack damages Cypriot tanker

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraqi warplanes fired a missile late Tuesday night at a Cypriot tanker on an Iranian "oil shuttle" in the Gulf, ending a three-week lull in shipping attacks, shipping sources said Wednesday.

Captain Protonis Dionysios told Reuters by ship-to-shore radio Wednesday that his 122,841-ton tanker, the Kypros, was hit at 1850 GMT and that a Filipino crew member was wounded. Iraq said it had struck a "very large naval target" at 1900 GMT.

The captain said a ship from the Iranian coast guard took the wounded crew member off the Kypros, and that a tug was now towing his tanker to either Bahrain or Dubai.

"We have no power. We have only batteries," he said, before breaking the conversation to speak to the tug.

One shipping source said the engine room had burst into flames and was still burning Wednesday morning.

Capt. Dionysios did not specify what hit his ship, but the shipping source said: "It must have been an Exocet (missile). Nothing else could have dlobbered the engine room like that in the middle of the night."

In London, Lloyds Shipping Intelligence said the Kypros was hit by an Exocet, a French-produced air-to-ship missile used often by the Iraqis against ships over the past year.

The Kypros was headed in ballast from Sirt Island in the southern Gulf to Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island, shipping sources said. It was struck at 23 degrees six minutes east, 50 degrees 52 minutes north, about 80 miles south-east of Kharg and 15 miles off the Iranian coast.

Iraq last claimed to have hit a ship last week during a visit to Baghdad by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The claim was not independently confirmed.

Iraqi Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said after Mr. Perez de Cuellar left: "The war is continuing and so are the attacks."

The last confirmed shipping strike in the Gulf was an Iraqi attack on a 14,650-ton Panamanian bulk carrier on March 26, preceded two days earlier by an Iraqi strike on a 126,469-ton Italian tanker.

Most of Iraq's strikes have been during the day, which prompted many captains to travel as much as possible at night if they did venture up the Gulf into the area Iraq

had declared a war zone.

Baghdad's aim is to deprive Tehran of oil revenue needed to continue the Gulf war.

Iraq has in the past retaliated against Iraqi air strikes by attacking with rockets foreign ships using ports on the Arabian side of the Gulf.

A military spokesman in Baghdad also said Iraqi anti-aircraft fire shot down a U.S.-built Iranian F-5 fighter-bomber Tuesday over the southern sector of the Gulf war front.

He said the F-5 and two other Iranian aircraft had tried to cross into Iranian airspace. "The Iranian jet was seen falling in flames in front of our positions while the other two fled," he said.

Meanwhile, India has asked Iran and Iraq to ensure the safety of more than 40,000 of its citizens working in the two warring nations, parliament was told Wednesday.

Minister of State for External Affairs Khurshed Alam Khan said that 3,000 Indians were estimated to be working in Iran and 40,000 in Iraq.

"Our missions have requested the host governments to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals by either moving them to safer places or permitting them to leave the country," Alam Khan said.

The minister said some Indians had returned home from Iran and Iraq. He did not give details.

India said earlier this week that 825,000 citizens were working in the Middle East.

hington: The memorandum that the 22 Palestinian leaders submitted to Mr. Murphy includes six points, according to Palestinian sources here. The six points include: the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; the Palestinians' unshakable commitment to the PLO; a call on the U.S. to hold direct talks with the PLO; the Palestinian issue is a national issue; and a call on the U.S. to pressure Israel into stopping settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza and stop its harassment of Palestinians there.



CREDENTIALS PRESENTED — Ambassador to Jordan, The minister also received the Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (left) received Wednesday the Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk who presented the minister with a copy of his credentials as a non-resident Soviet ambassador to Jordan.

650 Israelis died, 4,485 hurt since June 1982 invasion of Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli casualty toll since the June 1982 invasion of Lebanon has climbed to 650 dead and 4,485 wounded, the army said Wednesday.

The figures, which also include soldiers killed or wounded in training and road accidents, coincide with reports of an imminent pull-back from the coastal Tyre area and eastern Lebanon.

Military sources said the army had almost completed dismantling bases and pulling out heavy equipment from the area to be evacuated in phase two of the withdrawal.

Phase two involves the bulk of Israeli forces deployed along the so-called Red Line opposite the Syrian army in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Security sources in South Lebanon said Israeli troops also would leave Tyre shortly.

The cabinet was to discuss a date for the third and last phase of the withdrawal — a total pullout across the international border — at its weekly meeting on Sunday.

The latest casualties reported by the army were four soldiers wounded Tuesday night by a land mine explosion near Tyre, the scene of frequent resistance attacks.

The nine-party coalition government has been under public pressure to speed up the withdrawal but Prime Minister Shimon Peres has said: "vital equipment must be removed first."

Generals have said the army would leave Lebanon by June.

Israeli forces last week pulled out of a small pocket of hostile Shiite territory around the hill town of Nabatieh, bringing the front line in the area to within five kilometers of Israel.

Israeli troops Tuesday dismantled a bridge over the Litani River at the main road crossing point into occupied South Lebanon and fired shots in the air to stop reporters approaching.

Beirut-based journalists were also turned back at another crossing at Mazraat Froun, 18 kilometers inland, by troops with orders to allow no-one into occupied territory.

The sealing-off of Israeli-held territory and the dismantling of the Qasbiyeh Bridge on the coast road eight kilometers north of Tyre indicated that preparations for an imminent withdrawal from the tense Tyre region were under way.

Israeli troops pulled out of the central Nabatieh region north of the Litani River last week in a speeded-up withdrawal, less than two months after evacuating Sidon further north.

Journalists approaching the Qasbiyeh Bridge, built by the Israelis for their armour during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, were halted by rifle shots 100 metres from an Israeli post.

One reporter allowed to approach was told the bridge had been dismantled and the group should turn back. "If you crossed here, you would have to swim. If you try the side roads, we will foot, at you," a soldier said.

Lebanese villages near Tyre have been centres of resistance to the Israelis in recent months and the Qasbiyeh post has often been attacked.

At Mazraat Froun, villagers were being allowed to leave Israeli-held territory on foot, but none were allowed south at either crossing point.

Despite the impending Tyre pullout, the Israelis could be seen strengthening a post dominating the Litani at Mazraat Froun and building new positions and a military road near Beaufort Castle, 10 kilometers east.

A Finnish officer of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the Israelis were installing 105 mm artillery with a range of 18 kilometers at Mazraat Froun and the work near Beaufort Castle might be to facilitate future raids into Lebanon.

The castle, formerly a stronghold of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), dominates a wide area of South Lebanon and of Israeli territory across the border about five kilometers south.

Madaba citizens celebrate Al Isra'a Wal Mi'raj

MADABA (Petra) — A ceremony was held Wednesday at the Grand Mosque in Madaba on the occasion of Al Isra'a Wal Mi'raj. A number of speakers talked about the lessons derived from the occasion and about the importance of the city of Jerusalem to Muslims.

The occasion commemorates the Prophet Mohammad's journey by night to Jerusalem and his ascension and return from heaven. The speakers called on the Islamic nation to unify their ranks and to coordinate efforts for the restoration of occupied Arab territories and the holy city of Jerusalem.

The celebration was attended by all senior officials in the district. Preparations for more celebrations are taking place over the country.

Among speakers in the celebration were Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Palestine National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sa'eh, Ministry of Awqaf Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Abbadi and Religious Guidance and Preaching Director Ahmad Hulei.

To mark the occasion of Al Isra'a Wal Mi'raj the government has declared Thursday, April 18, as a national holiday.

Dakhqan opens agricultural exhibition in Jordan Valley

SALT (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan Wednesday opened at the University of Jordan's farm in central Jordan Valley the first Royal Agricultural Exhibition organised in cooperation between the ministry, the Syndicate of Agricultural Engineers and the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan.

The exhibition, which will run for five days, aims to acquaint farmers with the latest developments and agricultural methods which could boost and improve production.

UNRWA closes Beirut office amid heavy fighting

VIENNA (R) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said Wednesday its Beirut office has been closed because of heavy fighting in the city.

An UNRWA spokesman said a message to this effect, received at headquarters here, gave no further details.

UNRWA's Beirut office directs the agency's field operations throughout Lebanon, where there are some 250,000 registered Palestinian refugees. The agency's work in Sidon had also been disrupted in the past week by heavy shelling.

The U.N. agency cares for some two million Palestinian refugees throughout the Middle East, providing them with health, education and relief services.

Cholera kills nearly 900 refugees in Somali camp

GENEVA (R) — A cholera epidemic sweeping north Somalia has killed at least 873 people in a camp for some 45,000 Ethiopian refugees, United Nations officials have said.

The figure is up sharply from the 375 reported two weeks ago from the Gannet Refugee Camp near Hargeisa town, about 160 kilometres inland from the port of Berbera.

A spokesman for the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR told a news briefing that more than 3,000 camp cases of cholera had been established since the outbreak was first reported on March 27.

The 300 new refugees who have been arriving daily to escape drought and famine in Ethiopia were no longer being admitted, he added.

Murphy in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

"The idea was to inform the assistant secretary of the people's opinion on current matters," said Anwar Nusseibeh, a former Jordanian defence minister.

"It was very pleasant, very informal. There were no speeches," said Mr. Nusseibeh, who was reached by telephone after the two-hour gathering at the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem.

Among those who did not sign

the statement were Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij. Mr. Freij's name has been reported as one of seven on a list of potential Palestinian delegates to peace talks who would be acceptable to both sides. U.S., PLO and other officials have all denied knowledge of such a list.

The Palestinian guests included political leaders, journalists for Arab-language newspapers, lawyers and businessmen. Lamis Andoni adds from Was-

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:00	News Summary
Tel. 773111-19	23:05	Evening Show Cont.
	23:57	News Headlines
	24:00	Close down
MAIN CHANNEL	BBC WORLD SERVICE	
17:00	639, 730, 1413 KHz	
17:10	Friday News 07:30 Classical Record	
17:35	07:40 News 07:45 News 07:55 Ra-	
18:00	ditions 08:00 World News 08:30 Ra-	
18:30	ditions 08:45 World News 08:50 Footies	
19:30	Newsday 08:55 The World Today 09:00	
19:40	Newsday 09:30 Nature Notebook	
20:00	09:40 The Financial Times 10:00 The	
20:40	World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary	
21:40	10:30 Kings of Swing 10:45 Network UK	
21:50	11:00 World Music 11:09 Reflections	
22:10	11:15 Country Music Profile 11:30 John	
22:20	Rebel 12:00 World News 12:45	
23:00	Press Review 12:15 The World Today	
23:10	12:30 Financial News 12:40 Look	
	Ahead 12:45 Monitor 13:00 News	
FOREIGN CHANNEL	Summary 13:05	
18:00	Line d'est vivre	
18:45	Interview with Rene Ailler	
19:00	News in French	
19:15	Theatre de Boulevard	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
20:30	Charles in Charge	
21:00	Towards 2010	
21:10	All The Rivers Run	
22:00	News in English	
22:15	Dempsey and Mapple	
RADIO JORDAN		
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07:00	Light Music	
07:30	Newsbullet	
08:00	Morning Show	
10:00	News Summary	
10:30	Morning Show	
11:00	Pop Session	
12:00	News Summary	
12:30	Pop Session Cont.	
13:00	News Summary	
13:30	Pop Session	
14:00	News Bulletin	
14:10	Instrumental	
14:15	Talking Points	
15:00	Concert Hour	
16:00	News Summary	
16:30	Instrumental	
16:30	Old Favorites	
17:00	25 Years of Rock	
18:00	News Summary	
18:30	Special Feature	
19:30	From the Holy Quran	
19:40	Newsbullet	
19:50	News Summary	
20:00	Date with a Star	
20:30	Evening Show	
21:00	News Summary	
21:30	Evening Show Cont.	
21:55	News Summary	
22:00	Evening Show Cont.	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
* A painting exhibition by Spanish artist Jaime Oms at Alla Art Gallery.

* An exhibition of Works by Samer Tabet, Osman Alaz, Omar Hamdan and Gulshan Saleem at Petra Bank art gallery.

* An art exhibition by Zuhbi and Del-Obaidat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* A photo exhibition by Arslan Ramadan at Ahl Club - 8th Circle.

* "Mephisto" at 10:00 p.m. at Cinema Concord in cooperation with the Goe-the Institute.

* Norma Rae Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

* Dinner, cafe-song at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

* A field trip to Wadi Rum Thursday/Friday. Departure at 2:00 p.m. from the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 643371
British Council Tel. 636147-8
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009
German Cultural Centre Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 642013
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 634049
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 667181
Husseini Youth City Tel. 641793
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 664251
American Municipal Library Tel. 636111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

VOICES OF AMERICA
MW 1225 SW 775, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:30 News 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:30 News 09:00 News 09:30 News 10:00 News 10:30 News 11:00 News 11:30 News 12:00 News 12:30 News 13:00 News 13:30 News 14:00 News 14:30 News 15:00 News 15:30 News 16:00 News 16:30 News 17:00 News 17:30 News 18:00 News 18:30 News 19:00 News 19:30 News 20:00 News 20:30 News 21:00 News 21:30 News 22:00 News 22:30 News 23:00 News 23:30 News 24:00 News

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

ARRIVALS

09:15 Bucharest (RO)
10:30 Agaba (RU)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
10:45 Kuwait (RU)
10:45 Jeddah (RU)
10:45 Cairo (RU)
11:00 Dhahran (RU)
11:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
11:00 Beirut (RU)
11:00 Dammam (RU)
11:00 Riyadh, Riyadh (RU)
12:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

14:35 Kuwait (KU)
14:45 Cairo (RU)
14:45 Baghdad (IA)
17:15 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
17:40 Larnaca (RU)
18:25 Cairo, Agaba (RU)
18:35 Athens (RU)
18:35 New York, Vienna (RU)
18:40 Belgrade, Istanbul (RU)
18:45 Amsterdam, Larnaca (KLM)
19:05 Athens, Damascus (OA)
20:15 Kuwait (RU)
20:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SA)
22:35 London, Larnaca (BA)
23:20 Cairo (MS)
01:10 Baghdad (RU)
01:45 Cairo (RU)

DEPARTURES
06:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:30 Cairo (MS)
06:30 Beirut (RU)
06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:30 Beirut (MEA)
06:30 Vienna, New York (BA)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Athens (RU)
12:30 Paris, London (BA)
13:20 Brussels, Frankfurt (LH)
13:40 Ankara, Istanbul (TU)
14:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:30 Larnaca (CY)
15:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:30 Beirut (RU)
16:15 Baghdad (IA)
19:00 Bucharest (RO)
20:30 Kuwait (RU)
20:40 Doha, Muscat (RU)
21:15 Jeddah (RU)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)

MARITIME TRAFFIC
Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:
— Chaudhury Star
— Golden Singapore
— Euro Express
— Al Kadir
— Janes
— Onis
Amin Kassar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324 (six lines) at your service.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A further increase in temperature is expected. Winds will be northerly moderate to fresh. In Agaba, it will be northerly moderate winds and calm sea.
Low/high temperature in deg. C.
Amman 13/20
Agaba 21/29
Deserts 22/4
Jordan Valley 16/30
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Agaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Agaba 10 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE
Local selling rates in JLD
Belgian franc 65/ 65.5
Dutch guilder 115.9/ 116.8
Egyptian pound 288.3/ 292.3
French franc 43.2/ 43.5
Iraqi dinar 380/ 388.5
Italian lire (for 100) 20.4/ 20.7
Japanese yen (for 100) 159.7/ 161
Kuwaiti dinar 1350/ 1356.5
Lebanese lira 22.4/ 23.5
Omani rial 1143.3/ 1151.6
Qatari riyal 109.4/ 110.1
Saudi riyal 110.6/ 110.9
Swedish crown 45/ 45.4
Swiss franc 157.7/ 159
Syrian lira 35.3/ 36.1
UAE dirham 107.5/ 110.9
U.S. sterling pound 503.6/ 509.5
U.S. dollar 399.5/ 402
W. German mark 131.8/ 132.9

PRAYER TIMES
04:30 Fajr
06:03 (Sunrise) Duha
12:36 Asr
14:13 Maghrib
19:49 Isha

MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.</

Government to reassess education system, social services and agriculture

(Continued from page 1)

natural for us to believe this body terror cannot be but perpetuated by the enemy itself, either directly or indirectly. "Our resistance against this terror is part of our resistance of the enemy which has employed its tools from our people."

He said that the government will continue to do all it can to support the armed forces through modern training and armament as well as organising security organs in the Kingdom to provide an atmosphere of confidence, stability and prosperity.

The prime minister announced that the first shipment of arms for the People's Army has arrived in the Kingdom and that "the training of citizens on these weapons would start as soon as preparations are finalised in the near future."

Economic freedom

Mr. Rifai said the government will encourage economic freedom, free enterprise and cooperation between the public and private sectors. It will facilitate joint Arab economic work and strengthen economic ties with the outside world in general.

"These bases for our clear economic policy call for working towards issuing new laws and regulations, amending existing laws and simplifying administrative procedures to offer incentives for suitable investment," he said.

He called for a more active role by the private sector and a more limited public sector role which he said should be restricted to controlling basic commodities, food security, protection from extortion and a reconsideration of the tax structure to encourage investment and exports.

Agriculture

In the agricultural sector, the government will give special attention to organising the use of land and water in accordance with production capacities and the utilization of water resources, the prime minister said.

The government, Mr. Rifai said, will draw a plan to facilitate agricultural marketing to win the trust of the producer and to encourage him to increase his investment and double his production.

He said the government has decided to pay off the interest due for the year 1985 on medium and long term agricultural development loans given to farmers by agricultural loan institutions, which did not exceed JD 50,000. However, farmers have to pay the due instalments on time.

Oil, minerals

Coordinated efforts will also be exerted for the exploration of mineral resources, particularly oil. The prime minister said 10 new wells will be drilled in the Hamza field this year.

He said oil exploration will start outside the Azrak area and that the government will concentrate on exploiting producing wells very fast. "The government has already contacted a number of international firms to explore for oil in various areas in the Kingdom. It has also revived the programme for the exploitation of oil shale and other minerals," he added.

Transport

In the field of transportation, Mr. Rifai said the government will exert efforts to develop the port of Aqaba by taking effective measures and special arrangements to increase the size of imports and exports. "The government is currently tackling the problem of lack of cargo vehicles to transport goods to neighbouring Arab countries," the prime minister said.

He said the government will also develop railways and increase its capacities for carrying passengers and goods to decrease the consumption of energy.

"It will enact programmes to guarantee the support of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and increase its efficiency. A number of small airports will be established in key cities in the Kingdom," Mr. Rifai said.

Rifai said.

"Traffic congestion will be eased by establishing new roads around cities to serve local and foreign transport as well as establishing rural and agricultural roads to serve population centres and agricultural areas," Mr. Rifai said. The government will also expand housing projects for citizens with low incomes and will work to finalise ongoing projects, he added.

Infrastructure

On handling the problem of population distribution and immigration from rural to urban areas, Mr. Rifai said the government will exert effort to continue building the infrastructure in various areas in the Kingdom. "It will work to expand post office services and start the system of automated sorting of letters; and there will be more support for the country's communications network to achieve better services with the end of the five year development plan."

The prime minister stressed that the government will give priority to planning in the various fields to stimulate the economy and rationalise economic structure.

Five-year plan

He said the government will prepare the third five-year development plan (1986-1990) which will be divided into five annual schemes directly connected with the general budget.

Mr. Rifai said the government's financial situation suffered as a result of the failure of some Arab countries to fulfill their financial assistance obligations. He thanked Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for fulfilling their financial obligations under the Baghdad summit resolutions of 1978.

The prime minister said the government will make intensive contacts with Arab countries to ease some of the Kingdom's financial sufferings.

Mr. Rifai called for a more popular participation in municipal council elections as a sacred right for citizens and a duty which the government will protect.

The government will work to lay the grounds for organising development planning in accordance with a plan that takes into consideration future situations. It will prepare organisational plans for cities, villages and population centres, the prime minister said.

Social development

In the field of labour and social development, the government aims to enhance the stability in work relations between parties involved in the production process. It will work to provide protection and social justice through improving working conditions under the umbrella of social security, he said.

"The government will crystallise clear and flexible employment policies to correspond with development needs and create job opportunities," Mr. Rifai said.

As achieving social security is considered an important aspect of social development, the prime minister said, "it is necessary to achieve a qualitative jump in handling problems of less fortunate citizens living below the poverty line," he continued.

He said the government will establish a national fund for the welfare of the poor to be financed by joint governmental and private efforts.

Health

To develop the health sector in the Kingdom, the government will take several steps including the provision of adequate training and learning opportunities in the field, Mr. Rifai said.

He said the government will reconsider health legislation to avoid certain shortcomings and duplicity or the lack in responsibilities and authorities.

Law

The judiciary will also witness certain changes including the adaptation of a more efficient and practical control of courts as well as a control of the executive branch by these courts in accordance with the constitution.

Mr. Rifai pledged more coordination between the Ministry of Justice, the Jordan Bar Association and the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan and other establishments.

The prime minister expressed his government's belief that "man is the most precious being on Earth" and that the success of any government plans or ambitions depend on the patriotic awareness of citizens. "Based on this, the government will make it one of their main priorities to address people's minds, to educate their spirits and to help build their patterns of thinking and their personalities," he said.

The prime minister said the government would employ three channels for the achievement of this goal; education in its various stages, religious teaching and mass media.

Education

On education, Mr. Rifai said that the government is determined to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of education curricula, systems, methods and examinations. He said the government will amend recent regulations introducing the secondary school entry exams in a way which will ensure balance between the country's interests and individual needs.

He said that this principle of balance and a comprehensive attitude will be the government's adopted policy in its reevaluation and reassessment of the educational system in the country. He said that the government will take into account the individual's freedom to choose their further education, the country's development need for qualified technical and technological manpower.

He said that "the random and haphazard" flow of specialisations after basic schooling should be controlled in accordance with His Majesty King Hussein's letter of appointment to the government.

Mr. Rifai said that the principle of balance should take into account entry exams regulations, exams themselves and the different educational and social needs in various parts of the country.

He said: "The government will ensure the complete fulfillment of compulsory education and will ensure all the means for the development of students physically, spiritually, socially and mentally in order to instill a sense of citizenship and patriotism, including respect for the values of discipline."

Teachers, schools

"The government is fully aware of the role teachers play in the success of the education process, will therefore exert all possible efforts to raise the qualifications and standard of living of teachers by all possible means," Mr. Rifai said.

Regarding school buildings, the prime minister promised that his government will take all the necessary steps to ensure the construction of enough schools to cater for the increasing numbers of students and that it will gradually dispense with rented school buildings.

"The time has come for special attention to be paid to university and higher education and we must make a qualitative and quantitative step in this direction in harmony with the country's social and economic development," the prime minister said.

He said that the government will continue to support universities and will pave the way for more autonomy and self control in order to ensure the proper educational and research atmosphere for students and faculty members.

Private universities

On the subject of private universities, a topic which has been debated in recent years, the prime minister said that his government will review the situation in light of "recent developments" and in order to open higher education opportunities for more people and to decrease the number of students studying abroad. "This will be done with great care so as to ensure a refined standard of university education taking guidance from other countries' experience in this field," he added.

Religious teaching

The quest to improve education in the country will make it inevitable for the government to take steps aimed at reaffirming and expanding religious teaching with a view to strengthening faith in the hearts of the young generation, the prime minister said.

He said this can be achieved through improving the standard of religious teaching, increasing religious seminars and courses and due care to the teaching of the Holy Koran to various Islamic cultural centres, schools and community colleges.

"At the same time," he said, "our minds should remain open to various world cultures which enable us to avoid extremism and practice tolerance." The prime minister stressed the need also to make use of Awqaf-owned land and said that care should be given to mosques built by the Prophet Mohammed's companions in the Kingdom. He said that these mosques should serve as a beacon for all generations, emphasising the role of religion in building an Islamic civilisation.

Mr. Rifai pledged that the government will give due care to these mosques and Awqaf-owned lands in the West Bank, particularly to Al Aqsa Mosque and the Holy Rock Mosque in Jerusalem and Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron in addition to the Islamic museum in Jerusalem and other Islamic institutions and orphanages in the holy land.

Regarding Jordan's foreign policy, Mr. Rifai said that the government will strive to correct the "catastrophic, unnatural state which has afflicted relations between Arab countries" in accordance with the Royal appointment letter calling for the restoration of Arab solidarity. He said that this will be the first political priority for the government. "We will strengthen our brotherly relations with Egypt and will coordinate Arab joint efforts for the achievement of our national security," he said.

Youth, culture

As part of a drive to cater for the needs of the young, the government will pursue efforts to provide means which ensure their sound development within a framework of social and national criteria which could encourage youth to offer more service to their nation, the prime minister said.

Referring to cultural affairs, he said that the government will turn its attention to journalism and the information media which has an influential effect on national awareness and in deepening the sense of belonging to the nation.

Information media

"The process of imparting information to the public within the country and abroad through the mass media, private or public, is of paramount importance that is only matched by the credibility of such information within the higher interests of the country and nation and in adherence to truth and respect for people's mind," the prime minister said.

"The mass media should not only cater for people in the capital, Amman; the government will make sure that such service will reach every citizen in the country, Jordanians residing abroad, the Arab nation and peoples of the world," he said.

Tourism

He said the government will activate tourism as one of the basic industries supporting the national economy and as an effective method to introduce Jordan and its treasures to the peoples of the world.

Occupied territories

On the steadfastness of citizens in the occupied territories, the prime minister said that a comprehensive plan in all fields will be devised by the government aiming to deepen people's ties to their homeland in defiance of Israeli occupation plans to seize their land and force them to leave.

"This calls for a concentrated and continued effort to develop solid basis of agricultural, industrial and housing production, with emphasis on sectors which ensure the availability of the greatest number of jobs to combat unemployment and to help people to depend on their national resources," he said.

Mr. Rifai said that the Palestinian cause is the responsibility of all Arab countries and this calls for all Arab efforts to unite and solve the issue.

"And if the Palestinian cause, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, commonly known as the Middle East problem, are the responsibility of all Arab countries they are on the same measure their responsibility of the whole international community which should assume its role completely in its solution," he said.

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Arab solidarity

He said that Jordan, being the inheritor and carrier of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt finds it odd that Arab countries, which form one nation, should stand divided in the face of dangers threatening its very existence. He asked how the Arabs could stand divided in the face of Israeli Judaist policies in the heart of the nation and Iran's aggression on its eastern flank. He said: "The government will continue Jordan's policy of support for Iraq."

He said that in spite of all the dangers facing the Arabs, they have failed to convene a long delayed Arab summit which could show them the road to face all the grave dangers which engulf them from all directions.

Palestinian cause

"We in Jordan stand in the middle of the Arab circle and in direct confrontation with Israel and thus we bear a special responsibility towards the Palestinian cause," he said.

Mr. Rifai went on to say "this is highlighted by His Majesty King Hussein's interest to coordinate and cooperate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in order to reach a just settlement for the Palestinian cause that ensures Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem, and restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in accordance with United Nations resolutions."

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International conference

The prime minister said that efforts and talks which aim to find a just solution to the Palestinian cause based on U.N. resolutions make it imperative that such talks be conducted in an international conference under U.N. supervision and attended by all concerned parties including the PLO and the permanent U.N. Security Council members.

He went on to say that "problems in the Middle East reflect positively or negatively on the rest of the world and especially on areas close to us, and thus it is not true that these problems could be solved in isolation from these areas."

The prime minister said that Jordan, which enjoys good relations with all foreign countries, shall keep improving these ties and will work on improving joint Arab action through the Arab League and will strengthen its relations with Islamic and Non-Aligned Movement countries.

He said that the government will continue the existing positive and long standing cooperation with the West based on mutual respect and exchange of interest.

"The government will also pay greater attention to promoting cooperation and strengthening ties with the Eastern bloc countries which have always supported Arab rights and causes based on justice," he said.

Parliament

The prime minister stressed his government's great belief in cooperation between the two Houses of Parliament which are the legislative and executive authorities. He pledged that his government will continually and frankly inform parliament about all new developments on the internal, Arab and international scenes.

He called the Lower House to speed up the formulation of its committee on security affairs, which the house decided to formulate months ago, in order to enable the government to brief the house on its security policy.

"Today, and in accordance with our constitution, we call on your honourable parliament to vote for us with confidence based on our statement," Mr. Rifai concluded.

Following Mr. Rifai's policy statement, House Speaker Akel Al Fayez announced April 29 as the day for the debate of the statement for a vote of confidence.

Minister of Information Mohammed Al Khatib told reporters after the session that Mr. Rifai would be meeting with the press after the vote of confidence. He said the government will be meeting with the press on a regular basis later on.

PLO to step up struggle

(Continued from page 1)

10-man PLO Executive Committee, as saying after the meeting that other Arab countries should also attend such a conference.

But he specified that "the PLO must be represented on an equal footing with the Jordanian delegation," Wafa added.

An agreement reached in February between Jordan and the PLO stipulates that the Kingdom and the organisation will be represented in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The Arab countries the PLO wants to attend the proposed conference are Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon, as well as the PLO. The Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the PLO also calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967 and the

setting up of a Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan.

Wafa quoted the PLO Executive Committee member as saying the five permanent Security Council members — the U.S., the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — should "recognise their responsibilities" on the Palestinian issue.

The agency said the Baghdad meeting also examined the situation in South Lebanon.

It said the two committees discussed Israeli attacks in the region and fighting around the Palestinian refugee camps of Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh-Mieh, and in the city of Sidon.

The Executive Committee was Wednesday discussing the situation in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Arafat also met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and senior Iraqi PLO and Fateh officials.

More graduates apply for jobs at Civil Service Commission

By Simonetta Carr

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During 1984, the Civil Service Commission received 10,371 applicants, according to the commission's director of planning and studies, Mr. Youssef Abu Dayeh.

Mr. Dayeh told the Jordan Times that, while the increase in applications has been gradual during the years 1981-1982, a sudden increase of 2000 applicants was witnessed last year.

He attributes this to the fact that job opportunities in the private

sector are now less than before. Besides, the private sector usually insists on experience, while the government does not he added. He estimated that the number of applications for the year 1985 will be at least 12,000, based on the fact that during the first two months of this year the commission received more than 2,211 applications.

Of the 10,371 applicants for last year, 5,617 were from community colleges, 2,238 from universities, 2,323 from high schools and 1,092 below tawjihi level. This proportion, according to Mr. Dayeh, is simply a reflection of the fact

that more students today prefer to enroll in community colleges rather than universities. "They are easier to join, less costly, and present more job opportunities since the kind of studies in community colleges fit the requirements of the market" he explained.

In fact, he added that, of the 10,371 applicants last year, the commission appointed 5,851 as classified and unclassified employees and, of these, 2,495 were from community colleges, against 1,699 from universities, 706 tawjihi holders and 951 below tawjihi, who qualify for technicians and service posts. "Also, in our case,

graduates from community colleges best meet our requirements," he said.

Growing unemployment

While Mr. Dayeh did encourage students to join community colleges rather than universities, he also cautioned against the tendency among Jordanians to consider universities of colleges as status symbols for their children, regardless of the needs of the labour market. "Unemployment is a growing reality among these graduates," he said, "and the large number of Jordanians who are now coming back from the Arab Gulf with high qualifications, well-acquired experience and good training pose severe competition to the new graduates in the country."

The Civil Service Commission was established in 1955 in order to take care of the administrative procedures in Jordan, including the personal affairs of all employees (recruitment, appointments and allowances), the administrative development in terms of training and scholarship (inside and outside the country), the studies and planning involved in administration (job description, organizational methods, and procedures) and the supervision (implementation of all administrative regulations).

It is an administrative body supervised directly by the Prime Minister, but financially and administratively independent. The director, Mr. Hassan Khreis, is almost equivalent to a minister, said Mr. Dayeh.

New branches

Recently, the commission has decided to open two more branches in Irbid and Karak to receive applications for work from seekers of employment. "Our policy is to try to make things easier for people," Mr. Dayeh explained.

"Besides, decentralisation is one of the government's policies" he added.

The commission's centre in Amman has a large information room with colourful organisational charts of governmental bodies, as well as one of the commission itself, information on job possibilities in the country, including wages and other useful information about the present workforce and the needs of the market. All charts are in English and Arabic and are available for consultation for employers and job seekers alike.

The commission also has a large filing system including 75,000 active files and about 40,000 inactive files. In 1982, Mr. Dayeh said that a microfilm system was introduced and started first with the old files. Having proved to be adequate and practical, it will be introduced to the active file soon, he said.

Mr. Dayeh said the commission plans to develop the work in terms of using new methods and new technology. Presently under preparation is a databank which will be using new equipment, especially computers. The commission is also restructuring their organisation chart in order to fit new requirements.



Growing unemployment, especially amongst graduates, is a problem that many students will face when they have completed their studies (J.T. file photo)

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More hope in government

IN HIS statement to Parliament yesterday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai gave the country a lot of material to think about and consider. It was only natural therefore to decide on a 12-day period before the House convenes to debate the new government's programme.

The prime minister's statement has left its positive impact on us. It was thorough and full of promise for Jordan and the Jordanians. We wish Mr. Rifai and his colleagues every success in carrying out their programme, and hope the government-to-people discussions will be enriched.

Matters of concern to this country—government and people—should be debated at all levels and on a continuous basis. And as such we can only be heartened by the prime minister's pledge to commit his government to guaranteeing basic freedoms of the individual to belief and opinion and expression, so long as these freedoms respect the security and integrity of this country and its laws.

Jordanians are no doubt aware of the difficult challenges facing them and the whole Arab World at this stage. Yet, the majority among us wants its voice heard, on the right platform and through the proper channels, in full freedom and without any fear. The challenges make it imperative for us to express ourselves freely and share in the responsibility fully. Maybe we still need more time to adjust to a full-fledged democratic system and to adapt our political ways accordingly. But then we cannot really afford not to move ahead and make progress all the time.

Very few people doubt the need to inject new blood in our political, economic and social institutions. This is essentially necessary and doubly important now that we are entering a new stage which requires from us even harder work and fresh efforts in order to prepare ourselves better for the future and the coming generations. The region is only a step away from crucial political developments that deem it necessary for us to be ready and moving—in essence requiring us to be prepared for both old and new challenges.

Jordan's success story deserves from us every effort to continue the trend of social and political development, despite the heavy pressures and obstacles. The government of Mr. Rifai is in a good position to enforce this outlook and take the proper steps towards its achievement. We are both hopeful and confident that it will do its best to try the possible and also achieve results.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Egypt yields not to Weizman

ISRAEL SENT former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman to Cairo to prepare, as it said, for a summit meeting between President Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Weizman was also quoted as saying that he opposes the Egyptian-Jordanian call for an international conference on the Middle East and was said to have told U.S. envoy Richard Murphy that Israel does not want to include PLO representatives in any future talks on the Middle East, and opposes a dialogue between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

It is, therefore, clear that Israel has not changed its stand with regard to the Middle East and it is obvious that Weizman's visit is aimed at blowing up bridges of cooperation between Egypt and its sister states in solving the Palestine problem and finding a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel is thus trying hard to prevent Egypt from going back to the Arab fold and is making new tactics to stop Egypt from cooperating with Jordan and the PLO in finding a solution to the Middle East question.

Of course Cairo realises the deceptive techniques of Israel and can easily expose this manoeuvre and so foil any Israeli attempt to spoil Egypt's relations with Arab countries. The building of bridges of understanding and cooperation between Egypt and Arab countries is a national responsibility, and Weizman's visit to Cairo can never form any obstacle in Egypt's national policies.

Al Dustour: Gulf war should be stopped

U.N. SECURITY Council members have just announced their intention to carry out consultations on a report presented to the council by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the situation in the Gulf, following his visits to Baghdad and Tehran. This announcement represents a clear positive intention on the part of the Security Council to try its hand again in the issue with the hope of bringing to an end to the Iran-Iraq war and stop bloodshed and further suffering.

De Cuellar has urged the council to call on the governments of Iraq and Iran to help in the process of ending this war that has been threatening stability and peace in the whole Gulf region. One can draw hope from the words of the secretary general who said following his tour in the Gulf that both Iran and Iraq wish to reach peace, though some people are not at all optimistic about the whole situation in view of the new massing of Iranian troops in preparation of yet another offensive against Iraq.

Jordan along with other world nations feels that all efforts should be made now to end the conflict, and therefore we see in the new Security Council bid a ray of hope and in De Cuellar's endeavours a fresh and serious attempt to bring peace to the Gulf.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanese situation worsening

THE POLITICAL equation in Lebanon is no longer easy to understand in the light of the fast developments that point to further deterioration on the political and security fronts. The recent events indicate that the warring parties are not drawing any nearer to agreement or reconciliation, but are rather widening the rift separating them from one another and moving their country away from security and peace. As if the actions of the warring groups were not enough, new elements have emerged on the scene aggravating the situation still further. As a result, the president now finds himself deserted by his own party and denied the support of the Christians, the prime minister boycotting cabinet meetings due to his failure to control the domestic situation and the Lebanese army unable to fill the vacuum created by the withdrawing Israeli troops from the South.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

'Star Wars' will further stimulate education

By Franz Schurmann

SO FAR the second Reagan administration has not come up with any surprises in foreign or domestic policy. The Reagan people like to come out with the usual rightwing talk, but in their actions they have done nothing that is remarkable.

The Reagan administration does want some kind of arms accord with the Soviets. The reason is the same it has been for every administration since Truman's back in the late 1940's. It is too dangerous to play around with nuclear war.

The Reagan administration does want to do something about the huge public debt the U.S. government has accumulated. That means more than cutting government spending. It means not carrying out risky foreign policy undertakings that could lead to huge jumps in expenditures as happened with Vietnam.

The Reagan people always talk about radically cutting government subventions, but in practice they move very slowly. In fact, the more one looks at these rightwing Reaganites, the more one sees how cautious they are.

In only one area do I see a real radicalism: technology. Reagan is serious about his "Star Wars" programme. The Soviets are worried that this will mean an arms race in space. But the real reason for "Star Wars" may in the end be more civilian than military.

It will take a long time and vast amounts of research before the U.S. can achieve a credible defence against all incoming missiles. One nuclear missile is enough to destroy New York or Washington. If the Russians shoot in two thousand, the chances that two or five or ten missiles will get through are very high. And if the U.S. develops a "Star Wars" defence, all the Russians have to do is increase the number of their offensive missiles. Few physicists believe that a "leak-proof" defence against missiles can ever be created, and no one believes it can be put in place during the next fifteen years, that is before the year 2000 of the Christian era.

But research on "Star Wars" will require a lot of research and development in the areas of electronics, guidance systems, computers, metallurgy, laser and particle technology, astrophysics and so on. These are fields in which the U.S. leads the world, but where our friend and enemy, Japan, is rapidly catching up. The Reagan people speak of the Russian threat, but they are in many ways more worried about the Japanese threat.

Japan is still a high technology follower, but it is closer to the front-runner, the U.S., than the Russians. In fact, signs indicate that the Russians' major high technology weakness is in advanced data systems. But the Japanese are fast moving to a top-level innovative stage themselves. They have already become better than the Americans in many areas of technology. Now they seem to want to become the best.

The "Star Wars" programme would pour thousands of millions of dollars into advanced high technology research. The hope is that this will push the U.S. once again so far in the lead that no one, not the Japanese nor the Russians will be able to catch up.

From the beginnings of the revolution brought about by consumer capitalism around the beginning of this Christian century, the magic behind U.S. success has been technology and organisation. We Americans developed much of the world's present-day technology, and we had superb gifts for organisation. Now others are developing those same gifts, and none more so than our old enemies, the Japanese and the Germans.

The Soviets have the missiles. They can destroy us in a few minutes, and then all is over. But the Japanese and European technological challenge goes on right now and will get stronger.

In the Middle East, only the Israelis have understood this new world. They have built an advanced military system that incorporates highly advanced technology. As they showed in bombing Iraq's nuclear power reactor, they are determined

that the Arabs should not move in the same direction. But at some point the Arab and the Muslim Worlds must begin moving in these directions as well. Technology may at first seem magical, but it all comes from education.

"U.S. education used to be the best in the world. Then we slipped and the Japanese advanced. Now there is a new emphasis on education. Teacher salaries are slowly going up. "Star Wars" will stimulate education even more. And even if the military weapons are never developed to the point, that they can be reliably used, the effect the programme will have on pushing the society to higher levels of achievement will be great. So this Reagan fascination with "Star Wars" is nothing new, just more of the sort of thing that made the U.S. into a mighty nation.

Falashas miserable in 'promised land'

By Peter Godwin

ETHIOPIAN JEWS airlifted to Israel in "Operation Moses" last year are suffering from "chronic anxiety, neurosis and insomnia", a psychologist has reported. Many are taking tranquilisers and antidepressant drugs to ease the cultural shock of resettlement.

Some of the so-called Falashas are so miserable in their new home that they are resorting to suicide, a problem unheard of in their society in Ethiopia, according to Michael Phillips, an Australian psychologist who has been living with the Ethiopian Jews in "absorption centres" in Israel for the past four months.

The Falashas are anxious to retain their own communities and identities, says Dr. Phillips, himself a Hasidic Jew. But they are being separated and dispersed to settlements all over Israel and their culture is being "tossed aside".

They are fearful of complaining publicly. "Troublemakers", they believe, will find their education blocked and family members in transit camps in Sudan or still in Ethiopia will be stranded. According to Nathan Spiro, president

of the American Association of Ethiopian Jewry, some 8,000 Jews, most of them elderly, remain in Ethiopia.

At the "absorption centres" many young Ethiopians are already receiving call-up papers for the Israeli army. The thought of military service in wars they do not comprehend terrifies them. Avoiding conscription into the Ethiopian army was one of their main aims for flight, Dr. Phillips says.

The Falashas' concept of Israel before they arrived was of the Holy Land of the Old Testament and they are dismayed by the secular realities of the modern political state of Israel and the conflict into which they have been plunged. Yet Dr. Phillips says, the Ministry of Absorption seems intent on transforming the Ethiopians into "little Israelis" in as short a time as possible.

The process has resulted in severe cultural trauma. In some cases families have been split and young married couples—the wives as young as 14, as is customary in Ethiopia—have been persuaded to dissolve their marriages. An Israeli official said that seeing the "prevailing norms" in Israel, the couples split up voluntarily, but Phillips says the Ethiopians are sent to different camps.

According to Dr. Phillips, the Ethiopians are being discouraged from following their own religious practices, unlike previous immigrants to Israel. Faced with the prospect of "purification" procedures so they would be recognised as proper Jews in Israeli eyes, many young Ethiopians threatened suicide. Dr. Phillips says he knows personally of seven suicide cases in the past three months, although Israeli authorities will confirm only three.

Although Israel's chief rabbi has accepted the authenticity of the Ethiopians' Judaism, they are still being "advised" to undergo ritual immersion, and some Jewish sects discriminate against them. Forty Falashas were expelled from a school for refusing conversion ceremonies, Dr. Phillips says.

He has also noted a rift between the 10,000 recently arrived Falashas and previous Ethiopian immigrants, numbering about 3,500, who arrived in small numbers over the past decade. Many of the long-term settlers now work for the Jewish Agency, helping to assimilate the new arrivals. Feelings run high between the two groups.

The new settlers are also unhappy because they have no control over the spending of considerable sums of money collected throughout the world in the Ethiopian Jewry Appeal. They have set up semi-underground groups in place of the official Ethiopian Immigrants' Association.

Dr. Phillips suggests that the Falashas are growing to dislike Israelis, who, they say, regard them as uncivilised and inferior, objects of curiosity to goggle at and to quiz insensitively about their primitiveness. Some Ethiopians counter that the Israelis have no manners, are at best patronising and at worst racist.

An Israeli who emigrated from Brooklyn seven years ago was heard to remark: "I don't know what the government think it's doing bringing in black people. I left the States to get away from blacks."

Even the term "Falasha", which in the Ethiopian language Amharic means "stranger", is offensive to the Ethiopian Jews. They prefer to be called Bet Israel or House of Israel: until the last century, they believed themselves to be the last remaining Jews in the world.

The Israeli authorities dispute many of Dr. Phillips' findings,



Are 'Bet Israel' Jews at home in Israel?

however, they say the Ethiopians would have met the same problems in any Western secular country.—The Sunday Times.



Building a framework for peace in the Middle East.

Delors celebrated 100 days as president

By Youssef Azmeh
Reuter

BRUSSELS — European Commission President Jacques Delors Tuesday celebrated 100 days in office marked by a string of successes that appear to have set the tone for a more vigorous European Community.

Some diplomats said Mr. Delors had been lucky in taking over the running of the community's Brussels bureaucracy at a moment when problems dogging the 10 for many years were ripe for solution. But most agreed that the community's former French finance minister had started to impose a distinctive style and to exercise influence rarely seen in the days of his predecessor, Luxembourg ex-premier Gaston Thorn.

Mr. Delors was already being likened in authority and ambition to the first and most distinguished commission president, Walter Hallstein of West Germany, who ran the Brussels organisation for

nine years to 1967. Now diplomats foresee a consolidation phase in the months ahead.

Attention was expected to focus on breaking up remaining trade and political barriers within the community and on the rising spectre of new trade disputes with U.S. and Japanese competitors.

Mr. Delors' decisive leadership has raised hopes that he will restore the commission's independence from member states and reverse the erosion in its authority, viewed by many diplomats as being at the heart of the community's recurring crises.

The 100 days since Mr. Delors assumed power at the head of a more cohesive 14-mao commission have seen him play a decisive role in breaking a deadlock on terms for the entry of Spain and Portugal next year.

He has also been actively involved in steering through major breakthroughs to environmental protection policy, reforming the

much-criticised farm subsidy system and finding a solution to the group's immediate cash problems—issues that once appeared virtually insoluble.

Mr. Delors has been helped in his role by having Italy in the rotating chair of community government councils, with its skilful Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti manoeuvring the 10 governments towards accord and compromise, diplomats said.

They added that Mr. Delors' next big task was to overcome opposition against instituting reforms that would give his commission a greater decision-making role and widen the authority of the European Parliament.

The diplomats said that Mr. Delors, supported mainly by Italy and the Benelux states, was actively cultivating the Strasbourg assembly to build up its influence as a rival to the council of ministers and to leave the commission as the main group arbiter.

The crunch will come in June at

the community's Milan summit which will demonstrate whether heads of state and government are willing to consider wide-ranging reform proposals submitted to them by their appointed experts.

Some diplomats said there was little chance that the leaders would accept the most radical of the proposed reforms, which would effectively dilute staunchly defended sovereign rights and weaken their own authority.

They noted that the commission president has limited powers, recalling Mr. Hallstein's defeat at the hands of General De Gaulle.

When Mr. Hallstein attempted to impose a decision on the French with the support of the other five other members, the French President simply refused to obey and boycotted community talks.

The so-called "Luxembourg compromise" worked out to end this row established the principle, that no state was obliged to accept decisions it considers harmful to its vital interests.

Brazil's civilian government shaky as president worsens

By Bryna Brennan
Associated Press

BRASILIA — Brazil's new civilian government has become showing signs of paralysis, with administration and political figures concentrating on the worsening condition of President-Elect Tancred Neves.

The 75-year-old political veteran was in "extremely serious condition" Monday and was hooked up to life-support systems. Newspapers speculated on funeral plans.

Acting President Jose Sarney, who was sworn in as vice president on March 15, has promised to follow plans outlined by Mr. Neves, who first fell ill hours before the inauguration as the first civilian president in 21 years.

But scores of second and third level administration jobs remain unfilled a month after the cabinet ministers assumed power. A Culture Ministry employee, who spoke on the condition that she not be identified, said, "No one knows whom to report to, we just go to our jobs."

Congress members inside the modern, twin-towered building have just about stopped passing laws and instead Monday were speaking about Mr. Neves' health and awaiting televised medical bulletins.

Mr. Sarney, 54, canceled a planned Monday meeting to announce an emergency programme to combat hunger and unemployment in this nation of 134 million people. He also postponed a trip last Friday to visit the northeast, where hundreds of thousands are homeless because of floods.

Politicians, however, maintain that they are united in keeping the country running and following the constitution, which says the vice-president heads the nation if the presidency is declared vacant.

"This country needs the same life-support system that the president-elect has," said a Brazilian diplomat who refused to be identified because he said he is not authorised to speak with the press.

"With so many blows in so few days, a new government would have to be in some form paralysed," the news magazine Veja quoted the head of the civilian cabinet, Jose Hugo Caselo Bracaco, as saying. "Frankly, I don't



President Neves

know how this country continues."

The news magazine, in an editorial, said the new government does not know what Mr. Neves wanted and added, "The consequence is paralysis—a condition in which the vacuum is filled by a combined effort of ideas, actions and objectives."

Politicians were discussing how long Mr. Sarney should remain in office. The current constitution gives the president a six-year term, but Mr. Neves agreed to public demand to co-opt a national assembly to rewrite the constitution to legislate, among other things, direct presidential balloting.

Mr. Neves had said he would serve a four-year term, with his successor named by the people. Some politicians now favour direct elections for president in 1986.

Mr. Sarney now is viewed by many of the Social Democrats as a traitor. He is not highly favoured within the democratic movement because of his years as the mouthpiece for the military mandates.

A Brazilian diplomat said legally Mr. Sarney has every right to stay on as president, but added that it was a matter of legitimacy. "He will only be able to stay on if the people and the politicians feel he is a legitimate president," he said.

Meanwhile, the nation suffers from severe problems that cannot be put on hold for too long. Brazil holds the largest foreign debt in the developing world, put at more than \$100 billion. Inflation is running at more than 230 per cent, and the average worker earns only about \$150 a month. Combined underemployment and unemployment stands at 40 per cent.

Merrill Lynch apologises for anti-Arab advertising

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

A Merrill Lynch Realty agent in Washington has apologised for a recent advertisement which was offensive to Arabs and Americans of Arab descent after American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) issued strong protest. The March 23, 1985 issue of the Washington, D.C. "Homebuyer's Journal" bears the agent's full-page retraction and apology for an ad which he placed in the Feb. 9, 1985 issue of the Journal. The ad ran under the title, "Is Washington for Sale?" and featured a caricature of an Arab in traditional headgear with dollar signs reflected in his sunglasses. In addition to the public retraction, the local agent responsible for the ad and Merrill Lynch executives have written letters of apology to ADC and the Arab-American community. ADC and its members are sensitive to such forms of anti-Arab defamation and will continue to protest such anti-Arab biases in advertising.

I'M SORRY

I'm sorry that I ran an ad in this space on February 9, 1985 which offended the Arab-American Community. It was not my intent to demean or discriminate against anyone.

The ad was not authorized by Merrill Lynch Realty and was inconsistent with the Company's policies.

Oliver Cowan
Merrill Lynch Realty

The Merrill Lynch Realty apology ad

AMMAN — An American real estate agent has publicly apologised to the U.S. public and members of the Arab and Arab-American communities for publishing an advertisement which was outrageously offensive to the Arabs.

It was a classic example of the U.S. media tendency to promote the image of an ugly-looking, greedy and rich Arab when the Washington-based Homebuyers Journal ran a full-page back-cover advertisement by Merrill Lynch Realty saying "Is Washington for Sale? Ask Oliver Cowan" and featuring an Arab in a traditional headgear with dollar signs reflected in his sunglasses.

The advertisement, which sought prospective buyers and sellers of real estate in the Washington, D.C., region, appeared in the Feb. 9, 1985 issue of the journal and the American Arab Discrimination Committee (ADC) issued immediate protest and sent letters to Merrill Lynch Realty as well as Cowan himself expressing the ADC's vehement objection to such racist advertising.

Simultaneously a number of ADC activists also took up the issue and an ADC member in Chicago demanded that his Merrill Lynch agent work for a public retraction of and apology for the advertisement, says James Abourezk, national chairman of the ADC.

A multitude of contacts between the ADC and Merrill Lynch Realty executives followed, and the latter expressed "regret" over the advertisement, which, they said, was "contrary to our company's policy" and it was placed by Cowan, "an independent contractor, without prior review."

In a letter dated Feb. 27 to Dr. Omar Lachar, executive director of the ADC in Washington, D.C., Merrill Lynch general counsel Aubrey L. Pettit said "in a com-

pany with over 12,000 sales associates mistakes are occasionally made" and assured the ADC that "we are taking steps to re-emphasise and enforce our procedure of prior review."

In a letter to Dr. Kader, Cowan also expressed "regret" over the advertisement and said "it was not my intent to demean or discriminate against any one; in fact, as a black male who grew in Washington, D.C., I am particularly aware of this concern."

Another letter received by Dr. Kader, this time from Ray Chappel, president of the Washington office of Merrill Lynch Realty, also expressed "regret that the ad was offensive to you and other members of the Arab community" and said the company was "very careful to ensure that its advertisement does not discriminate unfairly against any particular nationality or ethnic group."

Referring to Cowan, the letter said "Oliver did not intentionally mean to perpetuate the stereotype image of the rich Arab buying in America."

The letter also assured the ADC that "we will be even more careful in the future to see that" this type of advertisement "does not recur."

However, it was not until March 23, 1985, following a meeting between Merrill Lynch Realty President Stephen Hess and his legal counsel, who flew to Washington, D.C., from their offices in Connecticut, and Abourezk, that Cowan published a public retraction of the Feb. 9 advertisement. "I'm sorry," said the retraction, published in the same journal, in the same prime space on back-cover. "It was not my intent to demean or discriminate against anyone."

Abourezk recalls that Merrill Lynch was "not so eager to use the words, 'I'm sorry,' but they finally agreed to do so after discussing our plans to publicise the

Is Washington For Sale?

Ask Oliver Cowan



He knows.

232-6130 652-2225

Merrill Lynch Realty

The anti-Arab, image-distorting ad which appeared in the "Homebuyer's Journal"

It was not the first time that advertisements offensive to the Arabs appeared in any U.S. publication. For years, the stereotyped image of a camel-riding, uneducated-but rich-with "petrodollars" Arab, always on the lookout for women and property, has been dominant in the U.S. However, in recent years, organisations like the ADC and the National Association of Arab-Americans have been very effective in their efforts to stem the tendency and the case with

Merrill Lynch Realty was only another example of how a concerted move could result in concrete results.

As the story of "Is Washington for Sale?" unfolded here, a seasoned Jordanian, who has been living in the U.S. for over 20 years, before returning to his homeland, said: "These kinds of things have been happening all the time, but it is a matter of record that an Arab-American organisation managed to pressure a giant like Merrill Lynch come to its knees and listen to reason."

Divided 'Third World' faces a rampant thrust by U.S. interests

By Melvyn Westlake

South explores prospects for key April trade and money talks, as International Monetary Fund (IMF)-imposed solutions start to fray. A divided "Third World" faces a rampant thrust by U.S. interests.

FOR MORE than a year, Western politicians and bankers have been engaged in a kind of conspiracy of optimism over the "Third World" debt issue. "They have been waving bits of paper like modern Neville Chamberlains, declaring financial peace in our time," says a London observer, paraphrasing British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who believed in 1938 that his negotiations had averted war.

Certainly, from the cosy perspective of the banking parlours and key finance ministries, the debt crisis may appear to have been successfully defused. The battered banking system has been shored up, there have been no explicitly acknowledged debt defaults, modest economic growth has been restored in many countries, and Mexico and Brazil have posted remarkably handsome trade surpluses, which will provide the dollars to meet their debt bills.

For the time being, at least, the "North" is ignoring the costs to debtors of this "successful" management of the crisis: the precipitous decline in per capita income which, in some cases, will not be recovered until the 1990s; the rising level of unemployment, and spiralling inflation.

Some Western officials do acknowledge that crisis management should now be followed by a second phase concerned with restoring growth and development in the "Third World." But the unanswered question is how to achieve this when financial flows to developing countries are declining, and when on present trends, many countries will have to go on making substantial out resource transfers to their industrialised creditors for years to come.

"South", are being held within the framework of the interim committee, the policy-making group in the IMF, and the less influential development committee, a joint IMF-World Bank body.

These meetings have been given a big billing largely because they are the first set-piece talks between the industrialised and developing countries since the failed "North-South" summit in Cancun, Mexico, in 1981 — but they are likely to prove no less futile. The U.S. has ensured they will not be negotiating meetings, and has told important allies among the world representatives to make sure that the meetings of interim and development committees conform to its wishes.

The outcome has been a foregone conclusion since last September, when the then U.S. Treasury Secretary, Donald Regan, hijacked the talks initiative. At that time, several proposals for talks were being advanced, by the "Non-Aligned Movement", the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Latin American and Caribbean Community.

The declared objectives of the April talks are now modest indeed. "We are looking for an open and relatively informal exchange of views, leading to a common analysis of the international economic situation and the identification of problems for future attention," says a World Bank official. The bank view is summed up by development committee secretary Fritz Fischer: "This is the only game in town." That may be so, but how does it help developing countries if the only game in town is being rigged by the U.S.?

Washington is under no pressure to moderate its hard line, says a senior U.N. economist. "The heat's off the industrial countries now that the debt crisis has passed." Sir Shridath Ramphal, the secretary-general of the 50-nation Commonwealth, also takes

a bleak view of the April talks. Their potential value will not be fulfilled, he says. The "Third World" has not got its act together. It is being out-manoeuvred by the U.S.

Certainly, it is a long time since U.S. officials were so enthusiastic about a meeting between industrialised and developing countries. "Tim McNamara, Treasury deputy secretary until February, describes the talks as the 'most important economic event of 1985'. Hard-line U.S. Treasury officials sense they are in a strong position to achieve several cherished objectives. High on this list is the launching of a new round of international trade negotiations, designed to liberalise cross-border trade in services such as banking, insurance and consultancy, as well as trade in high technology goods.

So far the developing countries have stoutly resisted such negotiations. But the "Third World" is going to be given a tough choice: go along with a new round of trade talks or face further protectionism in the industrialised world. Protectionist pressures are gathering pace in the U.S., fuelled by an over-valued dollar which has made U.S. goods inordinately expensive and devastated many industries. The Reagan administration has adopted more import controls than any of its predecessors since the 1920s. Even efficient industrial sectors like agriculture and electronics are now being hit by competition. A 20 per cent surcharge on imports is widely mooted.

Reagan officials now argue that only a new round of trade liberalising negotiations can stem the tide of protectionism. This is also a gateway that the April talks are more concerned with dealing with the looming U.S. crisis than with the problems of the developing world. The contradictions of the U.S. economy could hardly be more acute: while a strong dollar may have savaged industry, it is also necessary in order to attract foreign savings to finance the budget deficit.

The dollar's long upward march also exacerbated the problems of

the U.S. farm belt, where 250 farms are said to be failing every day, endangering attempts to cut farm subsidies — and their contribution to the budget deficit. A renewed attack on European agricultural protectionism is now seen in Washington as the only way out. "Third World" allies of the U.S. have been primed to bring up this issue at the April meetings to increase pressure on the European Community (EC).

Another goal of U.S. foreign economic policy that is likely to be pushed hard at the April talks is a reduction of "Third World" restrictions on foreign private investment. Reagan officials favour against restrictions that limit ownership by U.S. transnationals, or compel these subsidiaries to purchase a specified proportion of locally made components, or force them to export a set percentage of their output. The U.S. Treasury has rarely been in a stronger position to get what it wants.

Financial flows to the developing countries have fallen sharply. Bank lending has slumped and aid flows are also declining. Most analyses show that the developing countries face a large financing gap in the coming years if they are to grow at an acceptable rate. Washington argues that an increase in private foreign investment is the only way to fill that gap. Those who want a share of this investment will have to eliminate offending restrictions.

Washington's determination to strike a blow for its transnational accounts — along with budget constraints — for its resistance to pleas for an increase in the capital base of the World Bank and support for aid initiatives like the special fund for Africa. In the U.S. view, the World Bank and its soft-aid arm, the International Development Association, would have quite enough money to help Africa and the other countries like India, which should be forced to seek more of their capital requirements from the private markets.

For developing countries, struggling with painful, yet in many

cases, increasingly successful programmes of economic adjustment, Washington's hard line is a bitter pill. They have carried out many of the economic reforms urged on them in the early 1980s, only to find that the industrialised countries have upped the ante.

In spite of economic sacrifices, developing countries are likely to find new finance scarce. The future growth of their exports also looks increasingly problematical. A new eruption of U.S. protectionism or a rise in international interest rates would deal a body blow to the economic adjustment programmes of Third World debtors, particularly in Latin America.

The U.S. boom was responsible for almost the whole of Latin America's export "miracle" — 85 per cent of the increase in the region's exports from mid-1982 to mid-1984 went to the U.S. Huge trade surpluses of \$10-billion to \$15-billion, for Mexico and Brazil — matched by corresponding cash out-flows to meet debt bills — will have to continue for several years in the absence of any significant rise in new lending to these countries.

If either recession or protectionism prevented the U.S. from continuing to absorb Latin American exports, the countries of the region could again have great difficulty servicing their debts, particularly if interest rates failed to fall significantly at the same time.

Meanwhile, the internal social and political pressures to inflate remain for many developing countries. The very success of the economic adjustment programmes in some countries has increased the theoretical scope for such inflation — if, that is, it were not for the need of Latin American countries to transfer the equivalent of between three and 10 per cent of gross domestic product to their creditor countries, in the form of debt interest.

With this removed, imports could rise and some goods now sold overseas could be redirected into the home market. Such has been the decline in production and

income levels that it will take a sustained period of economic growth for many countries just to restore standards of living that existed when the recession began. Between 1981 and 1984, per capita GDP fell nine per cent in Latin America.

Even if these large declines are made up over the next few years — and in some cases, this will not be until the early 1990s — the 1980s will have been a "lost decade" from the point of view of economic and social progress. Basic social investments and expenditures have been sacrificed. This inevitably reduced the possibilities for raising standards of living in coming years. At the same time, inflation has soared in many countries, exacerbated in some cases by currency devaluations and the ending of subsidies on many consumer items, as well as by the efforts of organised labour to arrest the fall in wages — and the attempts of governments to head off social tensions by keeping the pressure of demand in the domestic market higher than is consistent with a shift of resources into exports.

In the face of these problems, and the even more desperate plight of many African countries, the April talks in the interim and development committees appear likely to have as much relevance as a debate on marine safety standards does to a drowning man. The so-called search for a "common analysis" is simply another way of asking the developing countries how much further they are prepared to bend towards the Washington position.

The central requirements of any sustainable medium-term financial strategy for the "Third World" have been frequently rehearsed: a substantial increase in the lending capacity of the international financial institutions, and a reorganisation of debt which reduce debt servicing costs to a level consistent with the achievement of adequate rates of economic growth. Until there is agreement on this, the real talks cannot start — South Syndication Service, London.

Randa Habbis

I want my money back

SOMETIMES ABNORMAL things happen around us, like this story I was told the other day.

This lady bought some furniture for her new house, 18th century pieces that she acquired during a trip to France. She decided to ship them to Amman. The furniture arrived and part of it was damaged during transport. This lady pays the import tax on all the pieces, even the damaged ones, the law stipulating that the price of these would be recouped by the owner from the insurance company.

In our friend's case, the furniture was unpacked later at home in the presence of a delegate from the insurance company who took note of the damage. The damage amounting up to over JD 300, the company delegate told the lady that in such cases, a committee should be formed to decide the amount to be paid in compensation. This committee consists of a delegate from the Chamber of Commerce, a delegate from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the insurance company employee.

So a date was set for this committee to pass its judgement, and this is when the abnormal happened.

Looking at the first damaged piece, an 18th century table with a black marble top which was broken, the delegates of the chamber and the insurance company, agreed on the sum to be paid in accordance with the initial invoice. The delegate of the ministry looked at the lady and asked: "What do you have against Jordanian marble?"

"Nothing," the puzzled lady answered, "but the marble came with the table", she explained.

Then they looked at two broken chairs; again the same two delegates agreed on the amount to be paid while our friend from the ministry commented: "Those chairs are old and rotten — you could have obtained better ones from Amman."

He was told, of course, the chairs were old, being authentic 18th century antiques. The ministry delegate insisted on his opinion. The same happened with the three other pieces.

The lady was told she will soon know what the decision of the committee would be. She has been waiting for quite a while. Nothing indicates that the two delegates were able to convince their colleague from the ministry that the problem rested not in the comparison between 18th century furniture and local production but in compensating for damaged furniture which was cleared by the Jordanian customs.

Orthodox Jews fight plans for building Mormon institution

By Arthur Max
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Orthodox Jews are campaigning to stop an American Mormon University from building a study centre in Jerusalem, arguing that the facility will become a vehicle for converting Jews to Mormonism.

While the battle rages in the Israeli Parliament, city hall and the press, the 15-million-dollar centre for Near Eastern studies is going up on a choice plot on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Holy City.

But the Mormons, recognising the power of Orthodox Jews in Israel, say they have forewarned their mission to spread the faith.

"Proselytizing among the Jews is not in our interests... for practical reasons," said David B. Galbraith, director of the Jerusalem Programme for the school, Brigham Young University.

"We also understand that the Jewish people, returning from 2,000 years in exile to their own land, do not want to be confronted by Christian missionary work," he said in an interview.

Such promises have failed to convince Rabbi Moshe Porush, head of a militant anti-missionary organisation called Yad Lachaim.

"We know the way they (Mormons) work," Rabbi Porush told the Associated Press. "They have succeeded in tricking the Israeli government that they are benign."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, as the Mormons are officially known, won a 12-year battle for the site last year when they obtained government approval to lease a six-acre plot on the hill mentioned in the Bible.

When completed in two years, the seven-story study centre will allow BYU to double to 200 the number of students in its Jerusalem programme, said Mr. Galbraith.

The Mormons are known for their aggressive missionary efforts, especially among Jews. They consider their church, founded in 19th-century America, an extension of the ancient Hebrew faith.

"We make a clear distinction between the university and the

church," Mr. Galbraith said. Missionary work is the principle of our faith," but it also was a Mormon tenet "to sustain the law of the land," he said.

The Mormons won support from Mayor Teddy Kollek, who has argued that Mormon students who spend a semester in Jerusalem return home "as good-will ambassadors for us."

In the 16 years that the BYU Centre has operated in make-shift facilities, "there has not been one instance where they have been suspected of missionary activity," Mr. Kollek wrote in a letter to Rabbi Porush.

Rabbi Porush claimed to have the names of three Israelis who were converted to Mormonism, but he declined to disclose them.

He also said Jews will be welcome to special events in the facility, where he fears Mormons will engage in subtle persuasion. "The university is part of their missionary activity," Rabbi Porush said.

Israeli sensitivity to missionary activity derives from the forced conversions of Jews during medieval times.

In 1978 the government tightened its anti-missionary laws by making it a criminal offence to offer material inducements to anyone for changing his religion.

At the same time, Israel is acutely aware of its pledge to guarantee freedom of religion in the Holy City.

But, says Rabbi Porush, "Freedom of worship is for individuals," and is not meant to be a license for seeking converts.

Jerusalem police say they have investigated anti-missionary Jews in connection with vandalism and arson at Christian institutions, including a fire that destroyed a Baptist Church in a Jewish neighbourhood in 1982.

Yad L'Ahim, which is Hebrew for "a hand to brothers," is a small, militant group of ultra-Orthodox Jews who have been in the forefront of anti-missionary activity in Israel for 30 years.

The group wields influence amongst rival religious political parties, which vie among each other to appear vigilant.

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New Zealand government says S.Africa tour 'eternal shame'

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's rugby union Wednesday announced the national All Blacks team would tour South Africa later this year, and the government said the decision marked rugby's 'day of shame.'

Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer said public opinion was now the only way to stop the controversial tour.

He called Wednesday rugby's 'day of shame' but urged restraint in public protests.

Palmer was speaking to reporters after brief airport talks with Prime Minister David Lange, who arrived home from a tour of Black Africa only hours after the rugby union's 18-man ruling council voted to defy widespread domestic and international opposition and go ahead with the tour.

Lange said earlier during a stopover in Canberra that the decision was to the sport's 'eternal shame.'

Church bells tolled in lament at the announcement, protesters outside rugby headquarters chanted 'shame', and New Zealand's biggest anti-apartheid group, Halt All Racist Tours (HART), vowed to mobilise public opinion to stop the tour.

HART Chairman John Minto

said in a television interview a national day of protest would be observed on May 3 to put 'irresistible pressure' on the rugby union.

"We're going to ensure that this tour does not proceed," he added. Police sealed off the rugby union's Wellington headquarters during Wednesday's four-hour meeting.

"There are so many people around who are thirsting for the opportunity to turn these protests into violent confrontation," a police spokesman said.

Demonstrators, police and rugby fans clashed in 1981 when South Africa's Springboks toured New Zealand in the last meeting between the two rugby-mad nations.

Concern at domestic violence, and division is a major factor in the highly-charged debate over sports contacts with South Africa.

Rugby union chairman Cees Blazey said: "We do not believe that the majority of New Zealanders would consider that a decision should be made on the basis of intimidation, threats or blackmail."

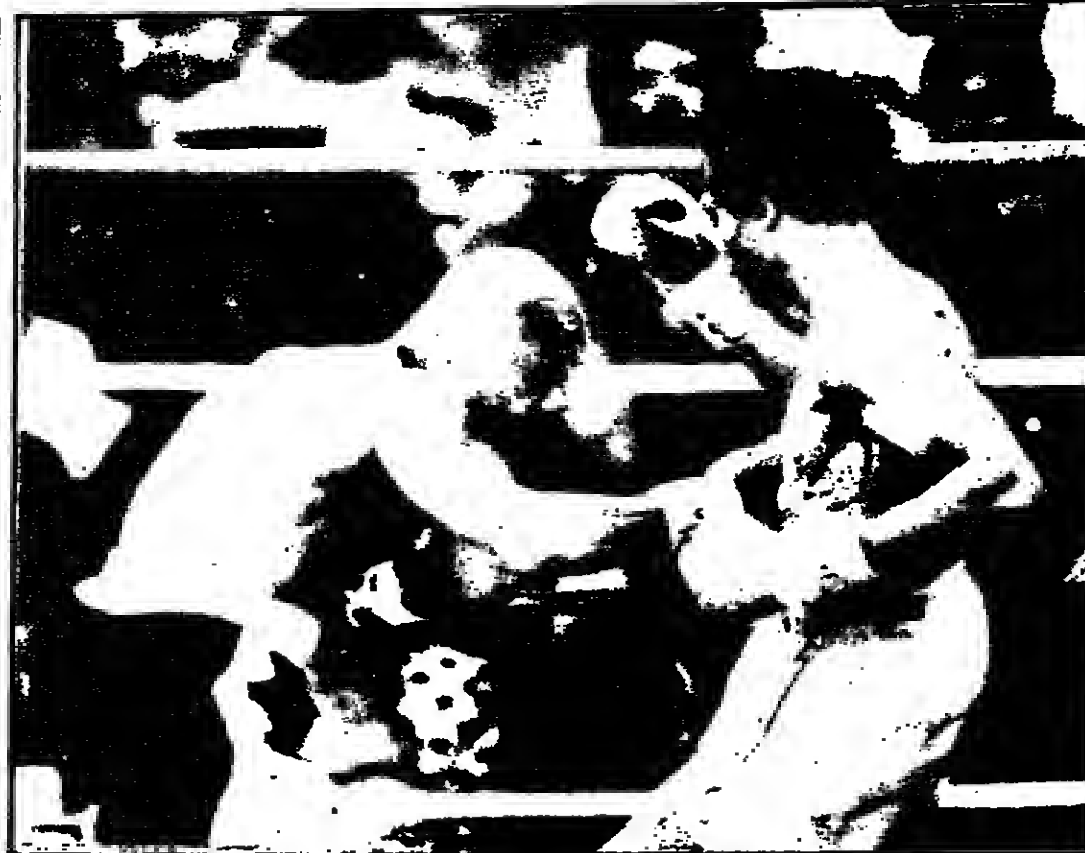
Wednesday's vote in favour of a tour had been widely expected in New Zealand where the issue provoked more passion than Wellington's ban on visits by nuclear ships and the resulting crisis in relations with the United States.

The decision followed Lange's statement that 'the tour must not proceed', and opposition from a unanimous parliament, the churches, newspapers and the country's two biggest provincial rugby unions.

Blazey said the government's view that a tour would cause international and domestic damage to New Zealand had been considered carefully but the council's responsibility was to rugby.

Blazey said Lange's apparent success in convincing Black Africa that everything possible had been done by his labour government to stop the tour was a factor in the vote.

But Palmer said this was a 'very shallow excuse for what is a patently selfish decision.' The tour probably will take place from late July to early September.



Marvin Hagler (left) directs a blow to Thomas Hearns' body in their world middleweight title bout Monday night in Las Vegas

Hagler to fight one more year

LAS VEGAS (R) — Marvelous Marvin Hagler said Tuesday that he would seek to break Carlos Monzon's middleweight record of 14 title defences and then retire in about a year.

"One more year and then I'll be gone," the 30-year-old Hagler told a press conference a day after stopping Thomas Hearns in the third round for his 11th straight title defence.

"Last night was the pinnacle of my career," Hagler said of his savage brawl with Hearns, which veteran observers regarded as the most exciting three-round fight in boxing history.

"I wanted to gain the respect of the media and the people, and I think that today the eyes of the world are on me."

Promoter Bob Arum said Hagler's next opponent probably would be top-ranked James Shuler, probably in the fall, followed by John Mugabi of Uganda and then Donald Curry, the World Boxing Association welterweight champion.

Hearns, meanwhile, was to have X-rays taken of his right hand, where a large swelling developed overnight between the small and ring fingers.

"We think he may have hurt it in the first round," said Irving Rudd, a spokesman for Hearns.

Both Hagler and Arum said that a fight with undisputed lightweight champion Michael Spinks was a possibility, but only if Spinks came down in weight.

"I'm a legitimate middleweight, and that's where I want to stay," said Hagler, still

wearing his red baseball cap with 'war' on the front, even though his war with Hearns — and it was all of that — was over.

"Maybe we can make it a 'catchweight' fight, with Spinks coming in at about 168 pounds (77.3 kg)," Arum said. "But Marvin isn't going to go up in weight."

Explaining his strategy of going after Hearns with a fury from the opening bell, Hagler said: "I did it because of the magnitude of the fight. I knew he was a fast starter as he showed against (Roberto) Duran and (Pipino) Cuevas. But I've got to give Thomas credit, because he fought as a challenger, should be coming right at me, too."

"I think I confused Thomas by switching from southpaw to a right-handed style," said Hagler, sporting a cut along his right eye and a handage on his forehead where he had been cut in the first round. "I do that by instinct. And I had switched to right-handed when I floored him."

Hagler, who required four stitches for his eye cut, said he thought a rematch was unlikely, even though Hearns said Monday night that he would like one.

Should it happen, though, Hagler said, "I don't think Thomas would want to fight like that again."

There had been bitter words between the two fighters before the bout. But Hagler indicated all that was past.

"He showed his class by coming in to my dressing room after the fight and wishing me luck,"

Hagler said. "He said, 'Marvin, you hit so hard for a middleweight. You should move up to light-heavyweight.' And I told him, 'Why? So you could take my title?'"

Hagler said he was concerned over the forehead cut that had opened up in round one. "I was very scared. But I knew that Goody (manager and co-trainer) Goody Petronelli could take care of it. And he told me there was no serious damage."

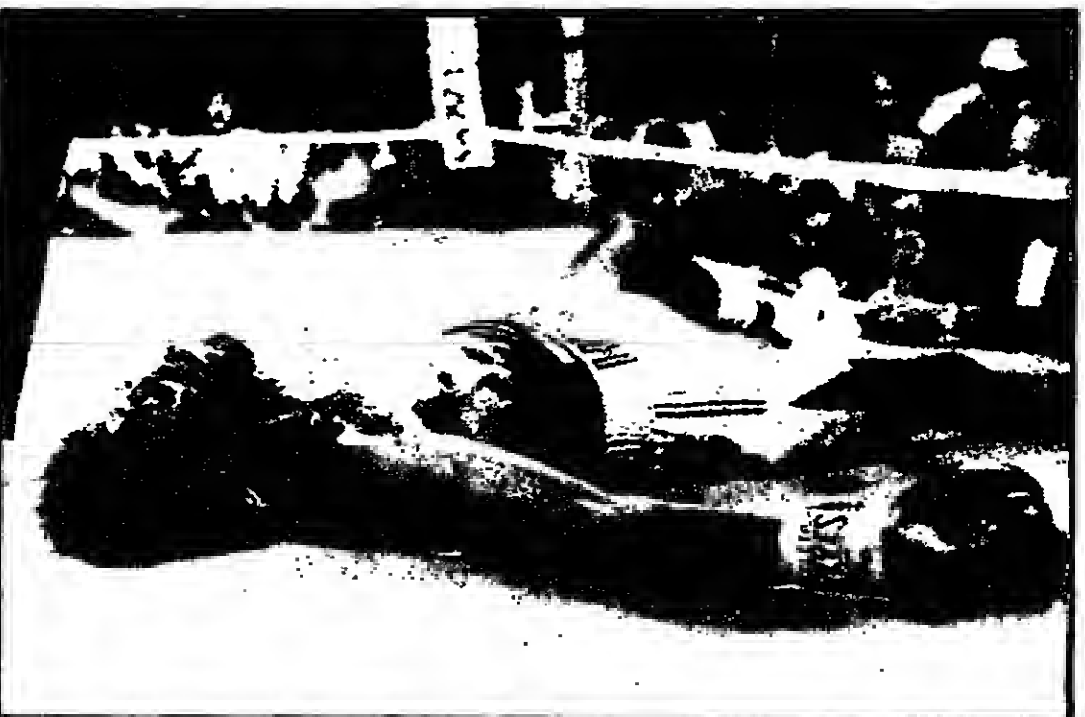
Based on early closed-circuit television returns, Arum said that Hagler probably would receive about \$8 million and Hearns 7 million.

Arum said about 1.2 million people saw the fight on closed-circuit television — about the same number who saw the first Duran-Sugar Ray Leonard bout, but well below the record 1.6 million who saw the first Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight.

Petronelli said that after the fight he and his brother and co-trainer Pat, who have worked with Hagler since he began his pro career in 1973, drank a champagne toast. "We always do it — just us. 'The Triangle'. It's very special."

After attending a party in his honour Hagler slept for three hours and was up at 4 a.m. to appear on television.

"Before going to bed, I looked in the mirror, and I said to myself, 'Marvin, you're boxing now,'" Hagler said. "I will not say I'm the greatest. I'll leave that to the public."



Thomas Hearns lies on the mat after being knocked out by Marvin Hagler in the third round

Ruzici ousts seeded Torres

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (R) — Romanian Virginia Ruzici and American Debbie Spence knocked two seeded players out of the Women's Tennis Association Championships here and three other seeded players were in their third sets when rain halted play Tuesday.

In second-round matches, Ruzici beat 12th-seeded American Michelle Torres 6-0, 6-3 and Spence won a 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 victory over big-serving American Alycia Moulton, the 13th seed.

Italy's Anna Maria Cecchini appeared on her way to a quick upset of sixth-seeded Hungarian Andrea Temesvari when she won the first set 6-0 but Temesvari took the second 6-1. Temesvari was trailing 3-4 in the third set when rain interrupted them.

Also in their third sets, third-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, led Denmark's Tine Scheuer-Larsen 3-2 and seventh seed Pam Casale led fellow American Elise Burgin 1-0.

In first-round matches, Argentinian's 14-year-old Gabriela Sabatini beat her countrywoman and doubles partner Mercedes Paz 6-1, 6-4. West German Steffi Graf defeated Sweden's Carina Karlsson 6-4, 6-3 and South African Rosalyn Fairbank needed a third-set tiebreaker to beat pre-qualifier Joy Cummings of the U.S. 6-0, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7).

A match between second-seeded Czechoslovak Hana Mandlikova and American Vicki Nelson was postponed until Wednesday.

Olympic boxing gold medallist Biggs says he's supernatural

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Olympic super heavyweight gold medallist Tyrrell Biggs of the United States said Tuesday he thought of himself as "supernatural" and didn't think his previous use of drugs and alcohol had seriously affected him.

Biggs, 24, said he never used drugs or alcohol during his amateur training and remains free from them now.

"I feel great. This is a whole different kind of feeling for me now," said Biggs, who has a scheduled six-round bout Saturday against Mike Perkins.

The fight is Biggs' second as a professional and the first since completing a counselling programme in California for drug and alcohol abuse.

"I think I'm a supernatural type of person, of the things I can do physically. There was no way it could bother me," he said.

Biggs declined to say what drugs he had used, but said peer pressure and access to money created the problem.

"It was not a thing, physically. It was not affecting me that much really. It was mentally. But I didn't think it was that bad," the 6-foot-5-inch (1.96-metre) Biggs told a news conference.

Biggs said he came to grips with his problem before it got out of control. He said he entered a rehabilitation centre in Orange, California, on Dec. 28 and successfully completed the programme Jan. 19.

"Before the problem got really bad, I figured I had to get on top of it, before it got worse," he said. "I didn't do anything to enhance my ability. I was just for recreation."

Also on the six-bout card will be Biggs on Saturday are two other Olympic medallists.

Lewis, Moses to compete in Olympic Coliseum track meet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Olympic gold medallist Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses and Valerie Brisco-Hooks will be among the competitors in the first Arco Coliseum Classic on Saturday, June 8 it was announced Tuesday.

The meet will be an international invitational affair featuring Olympians and world-class athletes competing in 20 events, it was announced.

Eastern bloc athletes who didn't participate in the Olympics because of the Soviet Union boycott also will be invited to participate.

The meet, sponsored by Atlantic Richfield Co., will be the first of major consequences at the Los Angeles Coliseum since last summer's Olympic Games.

"We have an opportunity to bring the world's finest athletes back into the Olympic venue to compete on the Olympic track," said H.D. Thoreau, meet director and commissioner of athletics for the 1984 games. "We are actively pursuing those athletes who were victimised by the boycott to compete in our meet."

Scheduled men's events are the 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 metres, the 110-metre hurdles, 400-metre hurdles, high jump, pole vault, triple jump, shot put and discus throw. Scheduled women's events are the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1,500 metres, 100-metre hurdles, long jump and high jump.

Moses, pole vaulter Mike Tully and high jumper Dwight Stones spoke at a news conference Tuesday, called to announce that the meet would be held.

Moses, who said his life had "returned to normal" since he was acquitted in February of a prosecution solicitation charge, plans to run "two or three times" before the coliseum meet.

"I race when I'm ready to race," said the 400-metre hurdler who has won 109 consecutive races since last losing in 1977. "If I'm running at my best, no one can win."

Moses, 29, said he is taking his future in track "on a year-to-year basis" and hopes to still be competing when the 1988 Olympics roll around.

Stones, who finished fourth in the Olympics, said he wants to peak for the coliseum meet.

"I don't want to have a bad performance in this facility," he said. "I think either (Jimmy) Howard (Dennis) Lewis or myself will better the U.S. record this year — not once, but several times."

Both Hagler and Arum said that a fight with undisputed lightweight champion Michael Spinks was a possibility, but only if Spinks came down in weight.

"I'm a legitimate middleweight, and that's where I want to stay," said Hagler, still

wearing his red baseball cap with 'war' on the front, even though his war with Hearns — and it was all of that — was over.

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There had been bitter words between the two fighters before the bout. But Hagler indicated all that was past.

"He showed his class by coming in to my dressing room after the fight and wishing me luck,"

Heart transplant patient runs marathon

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AP) — Welshman Bryan Price, 45, ran the Boston marathon with the heart of a 16-year-old — a heart that became his in an organ transplant operation more than a year ago.

Price, of Caldicot, Wales, was believed to be the first heart-transplant patient to complete a marathon when he crossed the finish line Moody in five hours and 57 minutes, his doctor, Terence Kavanaugh, said.

"I was harder than what I thought it would be. It was very hard and especially the last mile," Price said Tuesday.

"Oh, I'm feeling absolutely fine today... I've got a little bit of stiffness in the calves. I thought I'd have more than that," he said.

Asked if he planned to run another marathon, Price said, "I've done one. My ambition is done. We'll have to see. It's up to this team of people monitoring me... they're the bosses."

He referred to the Toronto rehabilitation pilot project. He is one of some 50 cardiac patients in a British programme based on the Canadian project, which Kavanaugh helps supervise.

Price said he undertook a training programme of about 11 months with the Toronto project.

"Their first idea was to rehabilitate me so I could get about," he said. "I decided I would like to have a go at the marathon if it was OK with them."

With the doctors' approval, he went ahead, training by running up to 20 miles (32.1 km) a day.

"Oh, yes, it was the first time I ever did a marathon," Price said of Monday's run over the 26-mile, 385-yard (42.1-km) course.

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GERMAN FILM WEEK

"Paths to Reality"

The Goethe Institute and the Cine Club announce that the German Film Week will be continued now at the Department of Culture and Arts' hall in Jabal Luweibdeh.

Beginning all days at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are for JD 1 and are on sale at entrance. See special advertisement.

<p>MOVIES</p>	<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280 677420</p> <p>FIRE STARTER (Colour)</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117</p> <p>THE MAN WHO SNEEZED (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155</p> <p>THE MAN WHO SNEEZED (Colour)</p> <p>3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA Tel: 675573</p> <p>YANKEE ZEPHYR</p> <p>4 6:30 8:30 10:30 Abdali, behind ALIA offices</p>	<p>Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117</p> <p>1- RAJ TILAK 2- TRUCK LASSES (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-7</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198</p> <p>CROOKS Indian film (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-5-8-8</p>	<p>***Cine-Theatre***</p> <p>Philadelphia</p> <p>WHERE THE BOYS ARE</p> <p>Shows at 3:30/6:30/10:15 TEL. 34144-34449</p>
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.2815/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3560/70	Canadian dollars
	3.0215/4200	West German marks
	2.5140/70	Dutch guilders
	2.5140/70	Swiss francs
	60.83/90	Belgian francs
	9.2150/2250	French francs
	1926.5/8.5	Italian lire
	249.05/20	Japanese yen
	8.8350/8450	Swedish crowns
	8.7300/7400	Norwegian crowns
	10.8450/8550	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	326.70/327.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed firmer in quiet trading, encouraged by speculation of a cut in U.K. base rates in the near term, dealers said.

At 1400 the F.T. 30-share index had put on 7.9 points at 987.4 while the FTSE 100 index moved back over 1300 for the first time since March 22, 11.8 points better at 1302.6 at 1430 GMT.

Rio Tinto-Zinc was off 13p at 641 after 637 following lower than expected annual pretax profits.

Government bonds were mixed in dull trading with short dates up around 1/4 point and long dates down 1/4 point. Golds were as much as \$2 lower and North Americans were mixed.

Commercial Union was unchanged on balance at 227p having touched a high of 232 on bid speculation. Alliance Versicherung AG said it does not plan a bid for the company.

Insurance brokers moved off the lows, having been initially marked sharply lower on currency considerations. Minet Holdings was down 17p at 255 and Sedgwick was up 3p at 366 after 351.

Banks attracted moderate interest as a result of a broker's buy recommendation. Natwest was 27p higher at 599.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURS., APRIL 18, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusually good day and evening for you to consider your future and just what you would like to have at this time which is new and different from your present outlook.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be more willing to state your aims to those about you and gain their cooperation. A day for making big progress.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Find a way to get in to see a bigwig and impress with your finest capabilities to gain support you need.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Good day for seeing as many persons as you can, both in business and social life and make real progress.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you are more efficient and clever at work, you have a chance to gain more benefits. Show loyalty to loved one.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) New situations arise that are an opportunity to have greater success, especially via Jet Set contacts.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find a better system for handling and initiating new deals and advance more quickly. The evening can be very romantic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Situations arise that can assist you in becoming more successful, so be sure to handle them properly. Think constructively.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Enthusiastically get into duties ahead of you and gain the approval of higher-ups. Rest at home this evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good day to plan amusements that will bring you success from worries and tensions. Spend time with loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study the situation at home and see how best to improve conditions there. Invite guests in for the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have fine ideas for adding to your abundance and should put them in operation quickly. Listen to a successful person.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can be more successful now by utilizing new methods and ideas and forging ahead thereby.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The earliest part of the day is best for you to get into the various means by which you can wind up the plans and arrangements which have already been in your mind.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) During the day, be sure to carry through with any plans made yesterday and be particularly careful.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Put some new plan in operation during the day and in the evening, go after personal matters that are pressing.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Pursue intimate aims in the morning, but tonight, concentrate on your most secret wish. Be thoughtful of friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You can get much done in the business world during the day, but later concentrate on personal wishes.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Use your inventive ability, your ingenuity in handling new projects and get ahead faster. Plan how to gain greater prestige.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Handle your business affairs brilliantly during the day, but later gain data you need from an outsider.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Discuss some new plan with your partners and then get into the minutiae of such. Show that you are ethical and reliable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can get much work done during the day that can bring fine benefits. Make right arrangements with your associates.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Early make appointments of a social nature for the future and later get into that workload and clear it up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Concentrate upon home affairs in the morning, but reserve the evening for simple and wholesome pleasures.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy early at correspondence and other communications and later enjoy your family at home.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan how best to add to your present abundance during the day and confer with experts in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will easily go along with modern trends, so be sure to accord a fine education, since upon reaching adulthood, your progeny will want to make a great deal of money. Teach accepted principles and tenets early in life.

Swiss hotel group faces bankruptcy proceedings

ZURICH (R) — A Zurich court ordered bankruptcy proceedings Wednesday against the luxury Nova Park Hotel group run by flamboyant entrepreneur René Hatt.

A company spokesman said the judge had announced his decision, rejecting Mr. Hatt's personal plea to save the firm, which runs exclusive hotels in New York, Paris and Zurich. No decision had been made on whether to appeal.

The burly, 57-year-old self-made millionaire took up his own defence in court against a move by his largest creditor, the Swiss Bank Credit Suisse, to start bankruptcy proceedings.

Credit Suisse argued the group had not paid any interest on the mortgage for the Zurich Nova Park Hotel since July 1983 and now owed the bank 63 million Swiss francs (\$25 million).

It said other creditors were seeking 75 million francs (\$30 million), adding the group was clearly overindebted. The bank's lawyer said there was no plan to restructure.

The group's troubles started with expansion abroad, when Hatt bought the Elysee Hotel in Paris, among the most expensive in Europe, and the exclusive Gotham in New York, financed by a West German leasing firm whose own finances grew shaky in 1982.

"The German banks, with the

help of the Swiss banks, want to finish me and Nova Park off," Mr. Hatt told the court.

But he said the group could still be saved and all be needed was time. Speaking to reporters after the hearing, Mr. Hatt introduced one of his new potential backers, a Lebanese financier who declined to give his name but said he represented Kuwaiti interests who would buy the whole group.

He said his clients were ready to provide \$120 million in new funds to clean up the hotel group's finances.

The Nova Park Hotel, which includes health centres and whirlpool baths, was built according to what Mr. Hatt has called his personal philosophy of "freedom and happiness" and "environmental protection of the spirit."

Credit Suisse said it had taken steps to ensure the Zurich hotel, the only one within the group which remains profitable, continued in business and the jobs there remained secure.

The group's Elysee Hotel in Paris has been given a June 4 deadline to find a way of paying off 138.6 million French francs (\$13 million) in debts. The New York Gotham is also facing court proceedings after cost overruns, and work on the group's luxury hotel on the Nile in Cairo has come to a halt.

India postpones giant project

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Wednesday it would call new tenders for \$1 billion pipeline to carry gas to six giant fertilizer plants, delaying construction of the 1,700 kilometre project for months.

A spokesman for the petroleum ministry told Reuters that major international companies which had submitted bids would have to make new offers for one of India's largest industrial schemes.

"Apart from \$250 million worth of pipes that India has already agreed to buy, nothing will be decided on the basis of offers already received," he added.

Construction of the huge pipeline was to have started two months ago.

By piping gas, now wasted, from a huge field off the west coast, it is hoped that fertilizer output, and with it agricultural production, will be increased dramatically.

Asked why India was calling for new bids, the ministry spokesman said: "In a massive and costly project of this type we should not take any chances." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Kathau said the project was so large that firms were likely to submit new bids, despite all the time and effort spent so far.

The original tender set off keen competition among firms from Japan, Mexico, Canada, Bulgaria, France, Italy, South Korea, the Soviet Union, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and West Germany, with many of the offers backed by attractive aid and soft credit packages.

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Grundig improves standing

HANOVER, West Germany (R)

Grundig, the West German electronics group taken over by Philips of the Netherlands last year, Tuesday announced big cuts in losses in the year that ended last month.

But chief executive Mr. Hermann Koning said the firm must still reduce its workforce drastically to get back on a sound footing.

Grundig reduced its after-tax loss by 100 million marks (\$33 million) to around 185 million marks (\$61 million) last year, while sales rose two per cent to 2.8 billion (\$925 million).

Mr. Koning told reporters he hoped less than 7,000 of Grundig's 24,000 jobs worldwide would need to be cut, although up to 3,000 may have to go in West Germany.

He said Grundig was engaged in a domestic price war because of fierce competition, especially from the Far East.

Orders for French arms total \$6.2b

PARIS (R) — The French arms

industry kept its place as the world's third largest arms exporter with orders worth a record \$1.8 billion francs (\$6.2 billion) last year, the defence ministry said Tuesday.

The record order book was mainly due to a contract for an air defence system for Saudi Arabia, worth 30 billion francs (\$3 billion) and another for 18 Mirage-2000 combat aircraft for the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Industry sources said the UAE was negotiating to buy 18 more Mirage-2000s and Saudi Arabia was talking of buying about 40.

The report said the previous record was 41.6 billion francs (\$4.2 billion) in 1982. The total fell to 29.1 billion francs (\$3 billion) in 1983.

After the Middle East, France's next biggest customers were in Western Europe, with 10 per cent of the market and North America with nine per cent. Its export record is bettered only by the Soviet Union and the U.S.

KLM celebrates 25th anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Marking the

25th anniversary of the Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) commencing operations in Jordan, the director of KLM regional office in Amman Mr. and Mrs. Najeeb Fakhouri held a reception at the King Hussein Club on Tuesday.

The party was attended by several senior Jordanian officials, the members of the diplomatic community in Amman and journalists.

Dollar's fortunes hinge on today's U.S. growth data

LONDON (R) — The dollar clawed its way back above three marks on currency markets Wednesday after dipping briefly below the psychological level on further concern about the condition of the U.S. economy.

The dollar fell as low as 2.9870 marks as the focus of trading switched from the Far East to Europe Wednesday morning, but quickly bounced back as banks and commercial traders bought the U.S. currency to cover sales commitments.

The dollar was fixed in Frankfurt at 3.0220 marks and in early afternoon was trading just below 3.02 marks, compared with Tuesday night's 3.0280 close in London.

Sterling continued its recent show of strength, rising to \$1.2830 from \$1.2770 Tuesday night.

The dollar has now slumped 13 per cent from a 13-1/2 peak of 3.4780 marks at the end of February. Dealers say the reversal of fortunes reflects fears of a severe slowdown in America's steady economic growth rate, highlighted Tuesday by news that U.S. industrial output rose by a sluggish 0.3 per cent last month.

With market sentiment running against the dollar, little heed was paid to a sharp rise in U.S. housebuilding starts for March, also announced Tuesday.

Traders said the fortunes of the dollar depend crucially on revised first-quarter gross national product (GNP) figures due Thursday from the Commerce Department in Washington.

The department's preliminary estimate on March 21 that U.S. GNP was growing at a mere 2.1 per cent annual rate in the first three months of this year signalled a sharp slowdown from the 1984 rate of 6.8 per cent and sent the dollar into a tailspin.

Thursday's data, based on complete information for the first quarter, will be crucial.

Meanwhile, the five leading industrial democracies debated a U.S. proposal for a conference to reform the international monetary system here Tuesday night but failed to agree on a time or place for it, monetary sources said.

They were able to leave aside the issue of currency intervention, which has lost much of its heat because of the recent weakening of the dollar, the sources said.

Meeting in secret here, financial leaders of Britain, France, Japan, West Germany and the United States reviewed a host of issues on the agenda of this week's semi-annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Finance ministers and central bankers of the so-called Group of

five meet secretly several times a year to discuss issues affecting the stability of the global financial system.

But unlike their mid-January meeting, when the dollar was soaring and they decided to intervene jointly on currency markets when they agreed it would be helpful, the dollar's current decline is doing their work for them.

"Fortunately, we are not in the same position today as we were in January," said one source familiar with the talks.

The United States has in any case proved a reluctant partner to the January agreement, charging that official sales of dollars on foreign exchange markets to curb the strength of the U.S. currency do little long-term good.

But since the meeting took place against the backdrop of a weaker dollar, the atmosphere improved, one source observed. "Actually, it was a fairly relaxed meeting," he said.

The United States has suggested that the present system could be improved but is opposing the fundamental overhaul sought by France, which has been deeply worried by volatile currency movements over the past year.

Instead, Washington wants the talks to focus on an international study on monetary reform, to be completed this June, which is likely to recommend greater surveillance of national economic decisions and their global impact.

Western officials say that earlier action to curb the huge U.S. budget deficit, for example, might have avoided the tremendous upheaval on currency markets in recent months.

Intensified international economic cooperation, Western officials say, might also relieve pressures from high U.S. interest rates which are blunting economic growth and aggravating the debt burden of the Third World.

Third World gives lukewarm response to new trade round

WASHINGTON (R) — Third

World countries, in their first concerted reply to the U.S. call for a new global trade round, have expressed scant enthusiasm for the idea and urged abolition of current protectionist measures instead.

Meeting here Tuesday as part of the semi-annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, they issued a communiqué calling for completion of unresolved work left over from the Tokyo round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We should try to round off the Tokyo round," said Argentine Finance Minister Juan Sourrouille, chairman of the developing country meeting.

He told reporters there was no consensus among his colleagues for talks on trade in services and agriculture, two crucial demands of industrial countries led by the

United States.

But the communiqué did say that trade talks limited to negotiations on goods alone would be acceptable.

The Third World position will be considered by meetings of the IMF's policy-making interim committee and the IMF/World Bank development committee later this week.

They have also presented a laundry list of demands for easier debt repayment terms and increased official loans and assistance to the Third World that are likely to get short shrift from the rich industrial nations.

This year's semi-annual meetings were extended to give special consideration to the debt crisis but since the initiative, proposed last September by the Reagan administration, the industrial powers appear to be less enthusiastic about the exercise.

This attitude, Western officials say, partly reflects a resumption of global economic growth and a feeling the debt situation, while still grave, is not likely to rock global financial stability as it did in mid-1982.

In fact, leading officials attending the meetings took great pains to dampen expectations that concrete measures on the debt crisis would be taken this week.

"We did not consider it a negotiating session and I don't think anybody else does," said Mr. David Mulford, assistant U.S. treasury secretary for international affairs.

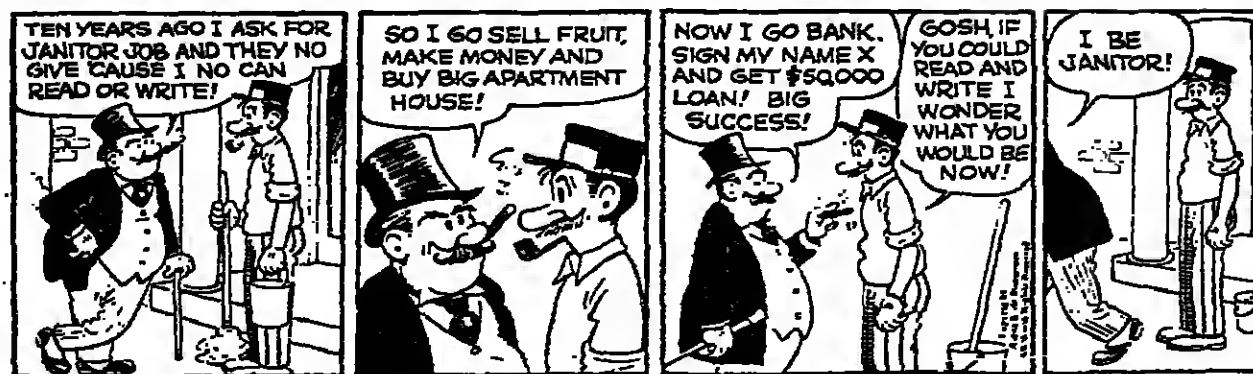
"We'll hear the issues and see if any further things need doing," Mr. Mulford told a briefing on the week's events.

Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding, meanwhile, said the talks would take the world "one step further towards solving the debt crisis but don't expect miracles."

Peanuts



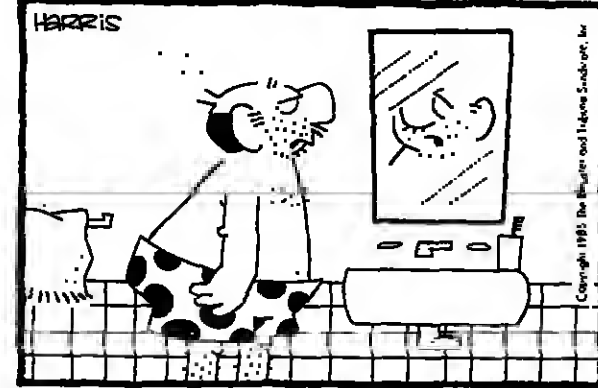
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

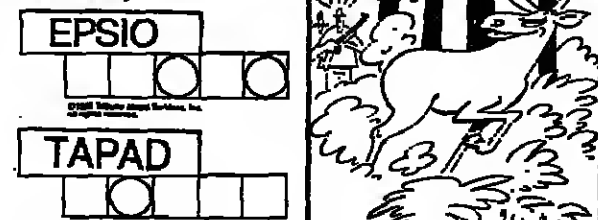


THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: FOR " " " " " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GROUP WHOOP VENDOR PLURAL
Answer: The tuba player liked his work because he was this—WRAPPED UP IN IT.

Deng: Kampuchea top priority for Soviet ties

PEKING (R) — Vietnam's withdrawal from Kampuchea is China's main pre-condition for the resumption of normal Sino-Soviet ties, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said Wednesday.

Mr. Deng told reporters China still insisted that Moscow remove three obstacles in better relations — the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, its support for Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea, and its support for the Soviet Union to eliminate all three obstacles at the same time, it can first remove one, then progressively, all three," Mr. Deng said.

"It seems the easiest for the Soviet Union is the Vietnamese army's withdrawal from Kampuchea, because this will do it no harm," Mr. Deng said.

"I can still keep its relations with Vietnam and the bases Vietnam provides... If they keep a clear-headed attitude they can start with this."

"The basic issue of these three obstacles is that they constitute a danger to China," he said.

Mr. Deng spoke to reporters in a corridor of the Great Hall of the People before meeting visiting Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

A senior Chinese official told reporters in Yunnan province bordering Vietnam Tuesday that 60 per cent of Hanoi's 1.2 million-strong army was confronting China.

"We have sufficient forces and weaponry to repel them and deal

them a heavy blow," Zhang Xiuming, deputy chief of staff of China's South Western Military Command, said.

Moscow is Vietnam's major backer and has the use of the former U.S. Cam Ranh Naval Base there.

Despite their continued differences China has made a series of friendly gestures to Moscow since Mikhail Gorbachev took over as Soviet leader last month and has repeatedly stated that it wants expanded trade and cultural ties.

The two former allies split over ideological and foreign policy differences in the late 1950s and their troops clashed during a border dispute in 1969.

Out of 52 divisions, 32 confronted China while only six were in the south of Vietnam, 12 in Kampuchea and two in Laos, Zhang said.

Zhang, 52, accused Vietnam of many incursions along the border. Hanoi's "expansionist designs in South East Asia" had prompted a provocative policy against Peking, he said.

Vietnam has always rejected the Chinese version of fighting along the rugged, mountainous border 270 kilometres south east of here. Hanoi charges that Peking has provoked trouble in order to

help its Kampuchean guerrilla allies.

Repeating official policy, Zhang said: "We will fight until they (the Vietnamese) stop all their incursions and withdraw their forces from Kampuchea."

Zhang, dressed in green PLA fatigues with no markings of rank, talked with correspondents at a guest house in central Kunming.

He said that since Vietnam launched its dry-season offensive against Kampuchean guerrillas last November, fighting along the 710-kilometre border with Yunnan had been heavy.

"The fighting has never stopped for a single day. We are on the defensive, we will never take a single inch of land from Vietnam. They are the ones making the incursions."

Fighting has focussed on the strategic mountain pass at Laos-shan, a major route for Chinese aid to Hanoi during the Vietnam War with the United States.

Zhang said that on January 15 the Vietnamese fired more than 100,000 shells at Laos-shan and launched eight attacks.

He said in the past 15 days the Vietnamese had reinforced their three divisions in the area with four more regiments.

"We shall not attack unless we are attacked. But we will certainly counter-attack if we are attacked," he declared.

"We have seen no sign that Vietnam wishes to stop its border provocations."

S. Africa completes Angola pullout

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa said it was withdrawing its last soldiers from Angola under a pull-out which analysts said was part of a new push for Namibian (South West Africa) independence.

A defence force spokesman told Reuters: "All South African troops are withdrawing from the area in question in Angola Wednesday."

There's going to be a parade of troops marching over the border and showing the flag."

A group of foreign and local reporters flew to Oshikango border post, about 600 kilometres north of the Namibian capital of Windhoek, to witness the withdrawal.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said on Monday the troops, remnants of an invasion force which moved into Angola from Namibia in December 1983, would be removed by the end of the week under a 14-month-old accord.

The South African government said the troops went to Angola to pre-empt attacks by Namibian guerrillas.

Analysts and diplomats said the pull-out was a conciliatory gesture to world opinion on Namibia, a former German colony between South Africa and Angola, which Pretoria rules in defiance of U.S. resolutions.

Mr. Botha said Tuesday that South Africa stood to gain more politically from disengagement than the security risks involved.

Official sources said Pretoria feared that Angola planned to call a U.S. Security Council meeting to demand a pull-back.

The analysts said the withdrawal and a plan to set up a transitional government in Namibia were South African moves towards a settlement for the disputed territory.

Diplomatic sources said Western states were concerned that Pretoria's plans deviated from the U.N. scheme for independence which they had been pressing.

The U.N. wants South Africa to pull out of Namibia, where nationalist guerrillas of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) have been fighting a bush war for 18 years, so that the U.N. can organise elections.

U.S. rules out direct involvement in Nicaragua

NEW YORK (R) — The Reagan administration has ruled out direct use of U.S. military force in Nicaragua at present but believes such action may eventually be necessary if other alternatives fail, according to a secret document quoted in Wednesday's New York Times.

The document, a "top secret" report on administration support of "Contras" opposing Managua's Sandinista government, said the White House wants to expand the size of rebel forces by up to 15,000 men to put more pressure on the Sandinists.

Military force "most realistically" is recognised as an eventual option, given our stakes in the region, if other policy alternatives fail," the New York Times quoted the report as saying.

The 22-page report, which was sent to Congress, maintained that only direct pressure brought by expanded rebel forces fighting on

Nicaragua's northern and southern borders could force the Sandinists to accept U.S. demands, the New York Times said.

"Assistance provided to the Nicaraguan democratic opposition will be structured so as to increase the size and effectiveness of its insurgent forces to a point where their pressure convinces the Sandinista leadership that it has no alternative but to pursue a course of moderation," the report said.

The New York Times said Mr. Reagan believed aid to the Contras should be resumed at a level sufficient to create real pressure on the government of Nicaragua (20,000-man insurgent force in the north and 5,000 to 10,000-man force in the south).

The administration now estimates there are 15,000 guerrillas fighting from bases in Honduras on Nicaragua's northern border, the New York Times said.

Death toll reaches 13 in riot-hit west Indian city

NEW DELHI (R) — Nine more people have been killed in clashes in Ahmedabad, bringing the death toll in two days of violence in the riot-hit western Indian city to 13, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Wednesday.

The news agency said troops were sent in and an indefinite curfew was clamped on the whole of the old part of the city after Tuesday's clashes.

More than 35 people were also injured in stabbings and when police opened fire to restore order, PTI added.

Angry crowds gathered in several parts of the city late Tuesday night throwing stones and setting fire to shops and houses, it said.

For the last two months Ahmedabad and the surrounding state of Gujarat have been hit by violent student demonstrations in protest against a policy reserving a set quota of government jobs and university places for the underprivileged classes and castes.

PTI said anti-reservationist groups and their opponents fought pitched battles as troops moved into the city.

The clashes followed the deaths of four people on Monday when police fired to disperse an angry crowd.

Another protestor was killed on Monday in the Gujarat town of Amreli in an act of self-

immolation.

PTI said about 500 protesters presented themselves for arrest in Ahmedabad as part of the anti-reservation campaign Tuesday.

Meanwhile the Indian Defence Ministry said Tuesday what it termed Pakistan's "relentless pursuit" of a nuclear weapons capability was India's biggest security worry.

"Acquisition of massive and highly sophisticated weaponry... are far beyond Pakistan's legitimate defence needs and would bestow on her an offensive capability," the ministry's annual report said.

"Pakistan's relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons capability with the assistance and connivance of certain countries has added a new dimension to our security environment," it added. The report did not name the countries.

The ministry said Pakistan had taken full advantage of the continued Soviet presence in Afghanistan to project itself to Washington as a front-line state.

India has repeatedly expressed concern over U.S. arms sales to Pakistan, while Islamabad has denied Indian charges that it sought to obtain nuclear weapons.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and has refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

COLUMNS 768

990 Sikh women widowed during riots

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government said Wednesday that almost 1,000 women were widowed in New Delhi during anti-Sikh riots triggered by Indira Gandhi's assassination. Minister of State for Home (interior) Ram Dulai Sinha said in a written reply to parliament that 990 women became widows in Delhi during the riots. More than 2,700 people, mostly Sikhs, were killed in nationwide unrest sparked by Mrs. Gandhi's murder by two Sikh bodyguards outside her Delhi residence on Oct. 31. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has ordered a judicial probe into the violence following a demand for an inquiry by Sikh political leaders.

'Shepherds' to protect elephants

DAKAR (R) — Delegates from 40 nations are meeting here to discuss ways of protecting Africa's dwindling elephant population, including a plan for specially-trained "shepherds" to protect some of them. Meeting for the first time in Africa, the International Hunting and Game Protection Council is expected to approve a plan called "shepherds for elephants" during a four-day general assembly which ends on Thursday. Under the plan, 36 volunteers will be entrusted with the protection of Senegal's remaining herds of elephant in Niokolo-Koba Park, in the south east of the country.

Borobudur Temple restored

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's ancient Buddhist temple of Borobudur in central Java has been entirely restored after an extremist bomb attack in January which damaged nine of its 72 stupas, Antara News Agency said Wednesday. The official agency said the cost of the repairing the damage caused by homemade time bombs had been met by the government.

3 sentenced to death for drug offences

LAGOS (R) — Three Nigerians, two of them women, were sentenced to death by firing squad for drug offences. Lagos Radio said: Shola Oguntayo, 19, and Sidikatu Tairo, 30, were arrested at Lagos Airport in August with packets of heroin hidden in their bodies. This brings to three the number of women sentenced to death for drug offences since the military government introduced capital punishment in July to curb drug trafficking. A mother of three was sentenced to death last month but the military authorities have yet to confirm the verdict. The radio said the third person sentenced was Oladele Omoshebi, 44, who was charged with helping the women in their attempt to smuggle drugs out of the country.

Catholics protest against Godard film

ROME (R) — Followers of rebel Roman Catholic traditionalist Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre held a prayer service outside a Rome Cinema to protest at the planned screening of the Jean-Luc Godard film "Je Vous Salue, Marie." About 40 people, including priests, nuns and seminarians of Lefebvre's order, prayed and chanted the rosary and asked that the authorities ban the film, a modern version of the story of the Virgin Mary. They said it was scandalous. They put a small white statue of the Madonna on a pedestal and held up a large gold crucifix as they chanted between prayers: "Long live Christ, down with blasphemers." One of the priests, Emmanuel Duchalard, told Reuters the film which has several nude scenes, was a "blasphemy against God and his Holy Mother. This kind of film should not be allowed." Catholics in France have also protested against the film.

Non-Aligned aides to discuss Namibia

NEW DELHI (R) — Ministers from about 40 Non-Aligned countries meet here this week in a bid to break the deadlock on Namibia (South West Africa), an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

A three-day conference will be inaugurated on Friday by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, current chairman of the 101-nation group, the spokesman told Reuters. Lower level officials will start talks Thursday, he added.

He said the first of about 40 ministerial delegations were expected to arrive Wednesday. Officials from 50 other Non-Aligned countries were also due to attend the talks.

"The delegates will be looking

for ways of hastening the independence of Namibia. They hope to give new impetus to a deadlock situation," he said.

"The meeting was called because of a sense that no progress was being made on the Namibia issue," the spokesman added.

The Non-Aligned Movement, which includes 50 African countries, has repeatedly condemned South African rule of Namibia.

The spokesman said the meeting was called by the 74-member coordinating bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement but was open to other members.

He said a document laying down a new Non-Aligned position on the issue would probably be adopted at the end of the con-

ference. "Delegates may discuss other international issues but the focus will be on Namibia," he added.

Ministers would be briefed by Sam Nujoma, president of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO).

The meeting coincides with the 25th anniversary of the founding of SWAPO.

Mr. Gandhi, who last week presided over a 40-nation Non-Aligned conference on women and development, took over as chairman of the movement from his murdered mother Indira Gandhi.

Police fire kills nine during Karachi protests

KARACHI (R) — Nine people died from gunshot wounds after police fired on crowds protesting at a fatal traffic accident, doctors at a government-run hospital said Wednesday.

City officials Tuesday night imposed a curfew on five areas stretching across northern Karachi after troops called in earlier Tuesday failed to control the protesters.

Most of the victims died Tuesday and during the night, the doctors said. At least 100 others have

been treated for wounds from bullets, pellets and tear gas.

Female students launched the protests on Monday after a 20-year-old colleague, Bushra Zaidi, was killed by a minibus. Police tear-gassed and baton-charged the demonstrators.

Over 3,000 protesting youths set fire to at least 40 buses, trucks and other vehicles, local residents said. Police said over 200 vehicles and seven banks were damaged and dozens of shops looted.

Princess unaware of her father's link with Nazi SS

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Michael of Kent, at the centre of a royal scandal, appeared on television Wednesday to deny she had been aware of her father's links with the Nazi SS.

"Here I am, 40 years old and I suddenly discover something that is really quite unpleasant. I shall just simply have to live with it," the flamboyant Princess said in a television interview.

The scandal hit the royal family Tuesday when the mass-circulation Daily Mirror reported that the princess's father, Baron Gunther von Reibnitz, was a Nazi party member who joined the SS in 1933, the year Adolf Hitler took power.

Although the Princess confirmed that her father had served in Hitler's elite force, Buckingham Palace said she had received the news "as a total surprise."

The Daily Mirror said the Princess, married in Prince Michael of Kent, a first cousin of Queen Elizabeth, had long been aware of her father's SS connection.

On Tuesday night the Princess attended a banquet with the royal family at Windsor Castle, west of London. Wearing a glittering tiara, she appeared relaxed with her blonde hair pinned up in her favourite style.

There was no evidence that her father, who died two years ago, had been involved in SS war crimes.

In Melbourne, journalist Barry Everingham, who is writing a biography of the Princess with whom he grew up in Australia, said both she and the Queen had known for a long time that the Baron had been a Nazi.

"Of course Marie-Christine

know about it. All this surprise is a load of rubbish," he said in an interview.

The Princess, born Marie-Christine von Reibnitz, married Prince Michael in 1978. He was forced to renounce his rights as 16th in line to the throne because she was a Roman Catholic.

In Vienna Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal Tuesday threw further light on the secret Nazi past of the father of the Princess.

But Wiesenthal, who has helped bring many Nazi criminals to justice, said he knew of now specific crimes of which the late Baron Gunther von Reibnitz could be accused.

Wiesenthal told Reuters that his records showed that Von Reibnitz joined Hitler's National Socialist Party in about 1930, well before it took power in Germany in 1933.

Von Reibnitz had membership number 412,855, Wiesenthal said, a comparatively low number indicating veteran status.

On July 4, 1934 Von Reibnitz joined the elite SS (Schutz-Staffel) force, which was later to run the concentration camps where millions of people were exterminated.

But Wiesenthal, who is based in Vienna, said he had no evidence that Von Reibnitz was personally involved in concentration camp work.

"If this man had been in a concentration camp he would be known by name to me," he said, adding that he would check further in his archives. Wiesenthal, himself a survivor of a Nazi camp, commented that Princess Michael could not be held responsible for her father's actions. "Look, the daughter is not guilty," he said.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettemson

RECAPTEE

By Louis Sabin

ACROSS

1. Strawberry

2. Model wood

3. Fruit

4. Olympic vehicle

5. Top-drawer

6. Inside head

7. Aspiration

8. "Mr. Bones," do your dogs have fear?

9. Plots

10. Wash segment

11. Word leader

12. Elbow the eye

13. Covered

14. Pieces

15. Part

DOWN

1. Carat

2. Owl sound

3. Carat's demand

4. Work on a play

5. "Angels" star

6. Low gravity

7. Telephone part

8. The son

9. Indefinite

10. Desire

11. Rich lark

12. Path for

13. Petros

14. Scent of

15. Plots

16. Exploiting

17. Nipples

18. Altruistic

19. Mass of poetry

20. E. Gov. city

Diagramless

17 X 17, by Mary Cee Whitson

ACROSS

1. Turkey

2. Deception

3. "Rhinegold"

4. Offspring

5. Sea bird

6. Altruistic

7. Medical herbs

8. Highway

9. "A" named

10. Deception

11. Turkey

12. Deception

13. "Rhinegold"

14. Offspring

15. Sea bird

16. Altruistic

17. Medical herbs

18. Highway

19. "A" named

20. Deception

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LULOZALULO HOLZ REPEULM DOZ DXHCA
RXAOP GOOC E COLLA - JYP BUM
EJZOPRYBZFM. —By Marlene E. Adams

2. GRMWF SPAT BAHOPV WACK: WA LOVE RS
LM OVCM VC AUUVWRACVD SRXOE: REW AGMP
VW WAAC VW KAH WVK EOVE ST PRXOE. —By Martha F. Gormer

3. LCO JHATRB HOPJ .WT FGA SWO, LDEJ
RHHH IWB GCJ NWTANE OCBN IBCATS. —By Earl Ireland

4. AAKSM UKO SWIM OWEIWM WUJNMY JAW
DEEP NO EOW YNRW. —By Lois E. Jones

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DEEP NO EOW YNRW. —By Lois E. Jones

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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PLAYING BY EAR

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ A 10 4 2

♥ Q 6 3

♦ K J 7

♣ K Q 7

EAST

♠ K

♥ J 10 9 4

♦ A 7 2

♣ 10 9 8

SOUTH

♠ Q J 9 6 5 3

♥ 8 7

♦ Q 6

♣ A J 2

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠

Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

Opener leads: King of ♠

Knowing the percentages is all well and good. Applying the percentages when they cannot possibly work is foolhardy.

West had a borderline opening bid — had his side not been vulnerable, he might have ventured into the auction. Note that, even though North-South were playing four-card majors, one club is the correct opening bid on the North hand. It provides for an easy rebid